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Yemen upset China

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yemen upset China 1-0 in their Asian Group A World Cup qualifying match in Irbid (half-time score 0-0). Earlier Iraq defeated Pakistan 8-0. (see page 9)

Arab meeting set for June 6

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace process will meet here on June 6 to assess the peace process after the conclusion of the ninth round of peace talks in Washington early this month and to crystallise a pan-Arab stand in the forthcoming peace talks. Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber has sent out invitations to the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt to attend the meeting.

U.N. guarantees Kuwait-Iraq border

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council on Thursday issued a new guarantee of the international border between Kuwait and Iraq, as demarcated by a boundary commission which recently completed its work. In a unanimous resolution, the council also reaffirmed that the boundary commission's decisions were final. The five-member commission, including three independent members and one each nominated by Kuwait and Iraq, was established at the end of the Gulf war. The Iraqi member boycotted some of the commission's sessions. In its final report, the commission said it had not drawn a new border or reallocated territory but had demarcated for the first time an international boundary that Iraq and Kuwait had accepted in October 1963.

Iran frees 100 Iraqi war prisoners

NICOSIA (R) — Iran freed 100 Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) Friday and urged Baghdad to reciprocate by releasing thousands of Iranian soldiers seized in the 1980-88 war. Tehran Radio said the Cross Red officials were present at the border where the POWs were handed over to Iraq. The repatriation went ahead despite an Iranian air raid on guerrilla camps of the Iranian opposition deep inside Iraq on Tuesday which drew threats of reprisal from Baghdad. "Iran wants Iraq to respond to this humanitarian action and, as a sign of reciprocal good will, release the remainder of Iranian captives," the radio quoted an Iranian official in charge of POWs as saying.

Moroccan centrists form poll alliance

RABAT (R) — Three Moroccan centrist parties announced Friday the formation of the Wifaq Al Wattani (national entente) alliance, dedicated to liberal economic and social policies, to contest legislative elections in June. It is the second electoral alliance formed before the June 25 election. Morocco's first in eight years. The two main opposition parties had already set up the Kutlah Democratia (Democratic Front), which is campaigning for radical change. Wifaq Al Wattani (WW) is composed of the Constitutional Union (CU), the People's Movement (MP) and the National Democrat Party (PND). They were among four centrist parties in the pro-government majority in the Chamber of Representatives (parliament), whose mandate ended in October.

Moroccan rights group lists 'disappearances'

RABAT (R) — The independent Moroccan Organisation of Human Rights (OMDH) issued a list Friday of 17 people it said had disappeared without trace and were thought to be held in secret detention centres. The group said in a statement the list was "by no means exhaustive" and that it would produce further lists when it had all the necessary information. The list, which was sent to the government, includes people aged between 28 and 75 who disappeared between 1965 and 1987, either after being arrested or when convicted by the courts.

Abdul Salam Majali to form government

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has asked Abdul Salam Majali, head of Jordan's delegation to bilateral peace talks with Israel, to form a government to succeed the Cabinet of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, and the transition in the executive authority is expected to be formalised Saturday, informed sources said Friday.

"His Majesty has mandated Dr. Majali to head the next government, and the formal announcement is expected to be made today (Saturday)," one source told the Jordan Times, ending weeks of speculation and rumours over who would head the next Cabinet. Dr. Majali, 67, was expected to present a list of his Cabinet to the King for approval Saturday, and the formal swearing-

in ceremony was scheduled shortly thereafter.

The main mandate of the new government is to supervise the next general elections, expected to be held later this year, and maintain the Middle East peace launched 19 months ago.

Dr. Majali's departure from the delegation is not expected to have any bearing on Jordan's stand in the peace process. Jordan's ambassador to the U.S., Faysal Tarawneh, is likely to be named as the premier-designate's successor as head of the Kingdom's delegation to the talks.

The composition of Dr. Majali's Cabinet was not immediately known, but some of the members of the Sharif Zeid government are likely to be retained, the sources said, noting that at least 11 members of the present Cabinet are expected to run in the elections.

Under Jordan's Election Law, serving government officials have to resign their jobs before they could file their nomination as candidates in the polls. Ten members of the 26-man Cabinet of Sharif Zeid are also members of the Lower House of Parliament, and all of them, except one, are expected to seek reelection.

Some of the people tipped to be included in Dr. Majali's Cabinet were non-committal Friday when contacted by the Jordan Times. They would not deny or confirm their expected appointment.

Eyewitnesses reported heavy security surrounding Dr. Majali's residence near the Fifth Circle and that many officials and personalities were seen visiting the premier-designate.

The confirmation that Dr. Majali was given the mandate



Abdul Salam Majali to form the next Cabinet came after weeks of speculation in



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker official circles and the media as to whether Sharif Zeid was

staying on after carrying out a cabinet reshuffle or it would be a new prime minister altogether.

Apart from Dr. Majali, other names mentioned as possible successor to Sharif Zeid had included Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi.

Sharif Zeid, who took office as prime minister in June 1989, is credited with overseeing Jordan's first general elections in 22 years in November 1989. He resigned after the polls. His successor was Mudar Badran, who led the government until June 1991, when Taher Al Masri was named premier.

Mr. Masri, a member of the Lower House of Parliament elected in November 1989, was forced to resign as prime minis-

ter three months later when he faced stiff opposition from Parliament. Sharif Zeid was recalled by the King in October 1991 to form a new government again in a caretaker capacity until the next elections, but the carrier military officer and former commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces wanted some rest and hence the latest change in the executive authority, the sources said.

Dr. Majali is a medical doctor who has served several past cabinets, headed the University of Jordan and was special advisor to King Hussein before his appointment as head of Jordan's delegation to the peace talks.

Dr. Majali is well-known for his moderate approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict and a staunch advocate of a settlement based on land in exchange for peace.

U.S. wants Israeli report on settlement

TEL AVIV (R) — The Clinton administration has asked Israel for an accounting of its building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Finance Minister Abraham Shohat said Friday.

He denied the timing was related to protracted Middle East peace talks, telling Israel Radio: "I do not think this has political meaning regarding a signal towards the Palestinians."

In a separate interview Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer said a two-month ban on Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip entering Israel, including Arab East Jerusalem, was permanent (see separate story).

Mr. Shohat said there was nothing new about the question-naire Washington had sent asking Israel for an annual accounting of its building on the Arab territory it seized in the 1967 war.

He said that under the terms of \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees granted last year, the amount spent on building for Jews would be subtracted from the guarantees.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, after replacing former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in June 1992, won the aid by freezing new building in the areas, something Mr. Shamir refused to do.

Mr. Rabin allowed the completion of 14,577 homes already begun by Mr. Shamir in the Golan Heights, Arab East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

About 100,000 Jews live among the nearly two million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. If all the new homes were sold there, the settler population would increase by 50 per cent.

Palestinians fear land where they want to set up a state is disappearing as they negotiate. They want all building stopped. Hassan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for Palestinian state delegates, declined comment on the U.S. questionnaire but expressed frustration at Washington's handling of the settlement issue.

"We have been asking for this (a report on Jewish settlement) repeatedly but the Americans have not been very positive," Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters.

Palestinians also want an end

to the two-month-long closure. The ban keeps tens of thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel.

Dr. Ashrawi said Wednesday Palestinian peace negotiators were in no rush to respond to an American invitation to hold preliminary talks in Washington before the next round of negotiations with Israel.

The Americans have asked the Palestinians to sit down with them and work on a joint declaration of principles concerning Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. At the end of the last round, the Americans submitted their own document to try to bridge the gap between Israeli and Palestinian positions, but the Palestinians rejected it.

According to the American document, the Palestinian body administering autonomy reportedly would have executive and judicial, but no legislative powers. The Palestinians see the autonomy council as the core of their future state.

"Basically, the (American) document incorporates most of the Israeli positions and language," Dr. Ashrawi told the Associated Press. "We have over 50 objections... and I don't think it's redeemable."

"I don't think there is a rush to answer" the American invitation to attend preliminary talks, she said.

However, Dr. Ashrawi said the Palestinians remained committed to the peace talks and were still considering the invitation.

Delegation chief Haidar Abdul Shafi sounded a conciliatory note Wednesday after saying earlier this month the talks should be suspended because of lack of progress.

"There is no intention to stop the negotiating process because peace is the strategic aim of the Palestinians and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," he told a convention of the Israeli Communist Party Hadash in the northern town of Nazareth.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat wrote in a telegram to the convention that despite the difficulties in the talks, "every effort

(Continued on page 3)

PLO plans to stay on in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) plans to maintain its political headquarters in Tunis, a senior PLO official said Friday.

Hakam Balaoui, the PLO ambassador to Tunisia, said in a statement: "Reports that the PLO headquarters will move from Tunis to elsewhere are baseless."

"The Palestinian leadership and the leadership of its institutions will continue their work from brotherly Tunisia."

The statement was carried by the PLO news agency Wafa. Some Arab publications had said the organisation planned to move to Cairo at the request of the Tunisian government.

Tunisia, traditionally a moderate in the Arab-Israeli conflict, took in the PLO in 1982 after the Israeli army drove Palestinian fighters out of the Lebanese capital Beirut.

But the PLO withdrew all military forces from Tunisia in 1986, mostly to Yemen, after Israeli planes bombed the PLO headquarters at Hammam Achaat near Tunis in October 1985.

There are now about 5,000 Palestinians in the country, mainly members of the PLO political establishment and their families. It is also the headquarters of the mainstream group Fateh and of the moderate wing of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), led by Yasser

Abed Rabbo. Hardline PLO factions maintain a minimal presence and have their bases in Damascus and Baghdad.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, anxious to cut costs, this month ordered a limited and temporary reduction in PLO staff in Tunis.

Some of them will move for four months to a military camp at Sara in the deserts of southeastern Libya, where the Libyan government will pay their allowances.

The PLO's income has fallen sharply in recent years because of the decline in contributions from Gulf states angered by Mr. Arafat's support for Iraq during the crisis over Kuwait.

Iran protests Saudi 'ban' on Haj rally

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran protested to Saudi Arabia Friday for banning an anti-U.S. rally by Iranian pilgrims in Mecca, but its complaint was restrained, calling the Saudi action "unjustifiable."

Speakers at Tehran's mass Friday prayer meeting expressed regret that Saudi authorities ringed the Iranian Haj headquarters in Mecca with police Thursday to prevent a "deliverance from infidels" rally from taking place.

The Iranian reaction contrasted with events in 1987 when a Saudi attempt to prevent an Iranian demonstration at Mecca led to a riot in which hundreds of people died and was followed by a break in diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Tehran resumed relations in 1991, ending a three-year boycott of the Haj. Saudi authorities had allowed Iranians to hold rallies in Mecca under strict police control in the past two years.

Iran said Saudi security forces, backed by armoured vehicles and helicopters, prevented pilgrims Thursday from holding the rally, which Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini declared an essential part of the annual pilgrimage.

The official news agency IRNA said Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati summoned the Saudi ambassador Thursday to make a "strong protest."

The Saudi ban came amid a trend towards improved relations between the two countries.

Both countries said earlier this month the other wanted to improve ties after Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati visited Riyadh for talks with King Fahd and other Saudi leaders.

The Saudi government has not commented on the Mecca incident.

A Saudi Arabian official said pilgrimages should not be used for political purposes.

"The pilgrimage is a religious and spiritual experience and not a political gathering," the Saudi official said when asked in Dubai by Reuters to comment on the Iranian media reports.

"Pilgrims go to Mecca to visit the house of God and not to make political statements," said the official, who asked not to be named.

"Zealous Muslims are angry," top cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati told worshippers at Tehran University. "We did not want anything else except to protest against idols. We were stopped from doing so. Our enemies are happy."

On Thursday, Iran summoned Saudi Arabia's ambassador, Abdul Latif Mainani, to the Foreign Ministry in Tehran to protest against what it called a "ban" on the rally in Mecca.

Nosair denies any link to bombing

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawyer for the Egyptian jailed in connection with the slaying of militant Rabbi Meir Kahane said his client had no part in the bombing of the World Trade Centre.

Lawyer William Kunstler said that even if his client, Al Sayyid Nosair, had a handwritten formula and diagram for the kind of bomb used in the trade centre explosion, the material may have been related to his support of Afghan rebels.

Mr. Nosair was acquitted of murder in the November 1990 Kahane slaying, but was found guilty of related charges. He was in prison when the trade centre bombing occurred.

The Feb. 26 bombing of the trade centre, the world's second-largest building, killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

New York Newsday, quoting anonymous sources, reported Friday that a handwritten formula and diagram for the same kind of bomb used in the trade centre explosion were found in Mr. Nosair's apartment in 1990.

Mr. Kunstler said he did not know about the formula and diagram, but he suspected that if there were such items, it was related to Mr. Nosair's support for the U.S.-backed rebels who fought against the Afghan government and Soviet troops.

He accused prosecutors of misrepresenting old evidence. He said the government had portrayed vacation snapshots of the World Trade Centre in Mr. Nosair's possession as somehow linked to the bombing plot.

Mr. Kunstler said prosecutors were making up information "willfully and deliberately because they... cannot prove a conspiracy."

Mr. Kunstler came to federal court in Manhattan Friday to ask Judge Kevin Duffy to punish the government for violating a strict gag order Mr. Duffy had imposed that was later overturned by the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Car linked to blast found, page 2

Israel says occupied lands shut for good

Settler killed

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli cabinet minister said in an interview published Friday that a ban on Palestinians entering Israel from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was permanent.

Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer, asked if Israel's borders with the occupied territories would be opened again, told the leading daily Yedioth Ahronoth: "No way."

"It doesn't make sense to reopen the border — not with Gaza and not with Judea and Samaria (the Israeli-given name for the West Bank). That would be a catastrophe."

Israel sealed off the nearly two million Palestinians in the occupied territories after 13 Israelis were killed in Arab attacks in March. The closure cut off 120,000 Palestinians from mostly menial jobs in Israel.

Palestinians also could no longer enter occupied Arab East Jerusalem.

Israel has since eased the closure, issuing entry permits to let 35,000 Palestinians work in Israel's building and farming sectors, both hard hit by the ban.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak

(Continued on page 3)

NATO could use force to defend Bosnia zones

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members agreed Friday that defence warplanes could be used to defend Muslim havens in Bosnia and told their military planners to investigate the options, alliance sources said.

Ambassadors from the 16 NATO nations also agreed new measures to make a NATO-led naval Adriatic blockade of the former Yugoslavia more effective.

A NATO spokesman said the envoys discussed a controversial new Western policy, including how safe areas might be defended with troops and air power.

He said NATO would consider any request from the United Nations for further help in former Yugoslavia but that allies remained committed to finding a political settlement to the war along the lines of an international peace plan.

NATO defence ministers reached a similar agreement earlier this week, but France — a major player in Bosnia, with some 5,000 troops on the ground — was not present at that meeting. France was represented at Friday's meeting.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren

Christopher said the United States hopes the United Nations will decide to establish safe havens for Bosnian Muslims by the middle of next week.

He told reporters more discussion was needed to line up the necessary votes in the Security Council.

The New York Times reported on Friday that the safe havens plan, adopted by the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Spain last weekend, had been sceptically received by other U.N. members and still lacked the nine votes necessary for Security Council approval.

In Geneva, the European Community's (EC) Yugoslav crisis mediator Lord Owen, whose future has been the subject of strong speculation over the past week, indicated Friday he was not planning to leave his post.

Asked by reporters about rumours that if might resign over an apparent Western decision to delay efforts to implement a peace plan for Bosnia which he helped to draft, Lord Owen said: "There's nothing like that."

"But I am looking at the situation carefully," he added as he left the offices of the Yugoslav peace conference.

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Baghdad tells Kurds West abandoning them

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq told its rebellious Kurdish population Friday the West was abandoning them and urged them to seek peace with Baghdad.

It simultaneously issued a call for the Kurds to rise up against their rebel leaders in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq and drive them out.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said in an article that the recent decision of the United Nations to withdraw its guards from Iraq meant the world body was abandoning the Kurds.

"Those who persuaded them (Kurds) to turn their back against their own country are abandoning them," the newspaper said.

"Their allies can no longer pay the expenses of the U.N. guards sent to protect them," it added.

"Only the road to Baghdad is secure and accessible (to them)."

The United Nations withdrew this month 50 of the 236 guards it sent to Iraq after the Gulf war in 1991 to look after U.N. offices and relief convoys. The rest are

due to leave by mid-June because of lack of funds.

The presence of the guards has been a reassurance for millions of Kurds who fled to the mountains on the Turkish and Iranian border after the collapse of a brief post-war rebellion against Baghdad.

The Kurds have established an autonomous state with its own parliament under the umbrella of a "no-fly" zone, patrolled by Turkey-based Western warplanes.

However, Al Thawra said Western promises to turn Kurdistan into a prosperous region were illusory and the northern region would not flourish "without mother Baghdad."

It also published a statement by a pro-Baghdad Kurdish council calling on Kurds to rise against the rebel leaders and drive them from Iraqi Kurdistan.

It warned of "strife" in Kurdistan if the Kurds did not rise against their rebel chiefs and Western protectors.

Iraqi officials deny reports of a military operation to retake the Western-protected Kurdish enclave in the north.

The U.S. warned Iraq Tuesday that military action they deem necessary if Baghdad attacked northern Kurds.

Talks in Saudi Arabia

Top Iraqi opposition leaders invited by King Fahd for the Islamic pilgrimage, including Kurds facing financial disaster because of monetary manoeuvres by Baghdad, held a series of talks Wednesday with the Saudi leadership.

The 14-member group, which includes top Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, met with Crown Prince Abdullah and then with Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, delegation members said.

Although it could not be confirmed the group was seeking

financial aid in its quest to overthrow the Iraqi government, one of the delegates, retired Major-General Hassan Al Naqib, told the Associated Press the discussions dealt with "saving our nation."

The oil-rich kingdom could respond favourably to requests for material and financial support.

It had been irked in the past with the Iraqi opposition's failure to unite, but the diverse groups have moved closer to that target over the recent months.

In addition, to Gen. Naqib, who fled Baghdad in 1970, the group included Mohammad Bahr Al Uthman, a Shiite Muslim cleric who along with Gen. Naqib and Mr. Barzani was elected in October to lead the 236-member Iraqi National Congress, which represents the ethnically and religiously diverse opposition.

Mr. Talabani leads the powerful Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which is also grouped in the congress.

Russia reverses vote on Cyprus force

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Russia Thursday supported reforming the financing of U.N. peacekeepers in Cyprus after vetoing an earlier draft of the resolution two weeks ago.

The new amended document on the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) sailed through the Security Council by a vote of 14-0, with only Pakistan abstaining.

The resolution, like the original text, moves towards spreading the cost of the force among all U.N. members instead of relying entirely on voluntary contributions.

Any costs not covered by those donations will be assessed against the entire U.N. membership, it says.

But in deference to Russian wishes, the resolution included amendments stressing the need for continued voluntary contributions.

The amendments are likely to have little practical effect, however, and Russia's annual share of UNFICYP's expenses will probably be what it would have been under the vetoed draft — just under \$2 million.

This revised speculation about why Moscow unsheathed its veto for the first time since 1984.

One frequently-heard explanation is that, after tagging along behind Western council members on post-cold war issues ranging from Iraq to Yugoslavia, it wished to assert its independence and chose an issue likely to cause the fewest repercussions.

The vote to change the financing UNFICYP took place as Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş were engaged in another so far fruitless round of talks at the United Nations aimed at reuniting their divided island under a federal system.

UNFICYP, comprising about 1,500 troops, has been in Cyprus since 1964 to help keep peace between the two communities.

The island has been virtually partitioned since 1974 when Turkish troops landed in northern Cyprus after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Pakistan's U.N. ambassador, Jamsheed Marker, who voted in favour of the original resolution, said he abstained this time because the new version alluded to the substance of the Cyprus problem at a delicate stage of the negotiations, instead of focusing on the technical issue of financing UNFICYP.

Until now, UNFICYP was the only U.N. force funded entirely by voluntary contributions, with most of the burden falling on the countries providing troops.

Due to a lack of donations, UNFICYP has an accumulated debt of some \$200 million and is more than 10 years in arrears in reimbursing troop contributors for even part of their expenses.

This is one reason why several have reduced or withdrawn their contingents.

Britain, which, together with Austria and Canada, has troops serving with UNFICYP, spearheaded moves to spread the costs among all U.N. members.

Britain estimates its UNFICYP expenses at close to \$50 million a year while under the new arrangement this could drop to just over \$1 million.

Russia had said it opposed ending the principle of voluntary contributions at a time when the United Nations was being asked to field expensive new peacekeeping missions.



GRIEF AND ANGER: The wife of one of the six Muslim fundamentalists sentenced to death over last month's assassination attempt against Egyptian Information Minister Sawat Al Sherif, shoots after breaking the window of the military court (AFP photo)

Iraqi opposition seeks to set up war crimes court

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraqi opposition groups have launched a campaign to set up a Nuremberg-style tribunal to try Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and other top Baghdad officials for "war crimes" and other "atrocities."

The effort came a day after the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to set up a war crimes court in the Hague, Holland, to try suspects accused of atrocities in the former Yugoslavia.

The Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of Iraqi opposition groups that organised into a united front at a 1992 meeting in London, urged the Security Council to approve a similar tribunal for Iraq's leadership.

The idea of an Iraqi war crimes tribunal has been raised on several occasions during and after the Gulf war, which ended in early 1991 with the Iraqi occupation forces driven out of Kuwait by the U.S.-led coalition.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met about a month ago with representatives of the Iraqi National Congress, and endorsed the idea of investigating whether Iraq was culpable for war crimes.

So far, no nation has taken any steps to bring the issue before the

Security Council.

Iraq's U.N. mission had no immediate comment on the war crimes allegations.

At a news conference, the Iraqi National Congress released a thick volume detailing their evidence against President Saddam, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and 11 other top Iraqi officials.

The volume includes documents in Arabic that the Iraqi National Congress says were seized from Iraqi archives during the March 1991 rebellion against the government, and English translations of them.

Some of the documents were included in the report of the U.N. special investigator on Iraq's human rights practices, Max van der Stoep of the Netherlands.

The documents appear to detail Iraqi government orders to execute villagers found in "prohibited areas" of the Kurdish north; to execute military deserters or draft dodgers; to burn and demolish houses of suspected Shiite subversives in the southern marshes around Basra; and other reports on brutal interrogations, executions, and the oppression of Kurds and Shiite Muslims.

The Iraqi National Congress said it has enough evidence to indict President Saddam on 37

counts of "war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Among the other Iraqi officials accused by the exile group of war crimes or other abuses were:

- Tariq Aziz, current deputy prime minister and former foreign minister, accused of involvement in executions during purge of the Baath Party in 1979, and participating in planning of the invasion of Kuwait;
- Uday Saddam Hussein Al Tikriti, son of Saddam Hussein, accused of sexually assaulting numerous Iraqi women and killing several people, and executing rebels in Basra in 1991;
- Ali Hasan Al Majid, director-general of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council who allegedly approved a chemical weapon attack on the Kurdish city of Halabja in 1988;
- Barzan Ibrahim Al Hasan Al Tikriti, special adviser to the government and representative to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, for allegedly ordering the arrest of thousands of the Barzani tribe of Kurds, many of whom were reportedly murdered;
- Taha Yassin Ramadan, top Baath Party leader and member of the Revolutionary Command Council, for allegedly raping several women and for responsibility as army commander for atrocities committed under his command;
- Hussein Kamil Al Majid, military commander who suppressed 1991 revolts in Hillah, Karbala and Najaf;
- Qusai Saddam Hussein Al Tikriti, security chief accused of ordering mass executions and torture of prisoners at Radwanahyeh prison in 1991-92;
- Wabban Ibrahim Al Hassan Al Tikriti, interior minister accused of brutality in suppressing the March 1991 revolt in Baghdad and surrounding areas;
- Sab'awi Ibrahim Al Hassan Al Tikriti, intelligence chief in occupied Kuwait, accused of responsibility for executions, murder, rape and torture of Kuwaitis;
- Izzat Ibrahim Al Douri, former head of the revolutionary court accused of issuing many summary execution orders;
- Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi, top Baathist official in northern Iraq accused of brutal suppression of Kurdish rebellion there in March 1991;
- Aziz Salih Al Noman, governor of occupied Kuwait in 1990-91, allegedly responsible for atrocities against Kuwaitis committed under his command.

been repeated targets of kidnapping and car thefts.

The kidnappers of the two Americans are demanding the release of four tribesmen who have been sentenced to death for killing a police officer during a chase.

Officials at the Hunt Company said their one direct contact with the hostages was early Thursday, when one of them used a radiotelephone to call the company.

On basis of that call, they came to know that the two had been "well-fed and reasonably well-treated," said the Hunt official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The man who called confirmed that there had been an "initial" shootout between the kidnappers and the troops, but said it was minor and neither he nor his companion were harmed.

Mr. Bennett, a drilling foreman with Yemen Hunt, and Mr. Hicks, an engineer with subcontractors Baroid Drilling Fluid Corp., were returning from field work when their car was stopped and their Yemeni driver beaten unconscious.

The military located the party at dawn the following morning and the siege began.

U.N. to help rebuild Somaliland

MOGADISHU (R) — The U.N. envoy for Somalia in a one-day fact-finding visit has reaffirmed his determination to help rebuild the breakaway Republic of Somaliland.

Admiral Jonathan Howe flew to Hargeisa, capital of the self-styled Somaliland republic, for talks with Mohammad Ibrahim Egal, its newly-elected president, on Thursday.

Adm. Howe told reporters that the U.N. would like to facilitate the speedy recovery of the economy, improve public health and education.

Discussion with senior politicians and local elders included human rights, the drafting of a constitution and the borders of the republic, Adm. Howe said.

The U.N. says it wants to deploy some of the 30,000-strong international force it is assembling to police Somalia in the breakaway republic, despite opposition from its leaders.

Somaliland declared independence from the rest of Somalia when the country fell apart in the fighting that toppled President

Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991.

It is not recognised by other countries but is determined to be treated as a separate entity in the U.N.-sponsored efforts to restore peace and help rebuild the whole of Somalia.

Adm. Howe said the U.N. had played an active role in rebuilding Somaliland including a food-for-work programme for police who were not being paid because of the government's lack of funds.

Asked whether he would send U.N. forces to Somaliland, Adm. Howe said that was under discussion but noted the U.N. had no troops to spare at present for Somaliland.

Not all of the 30,000 troops earmarked for deployment in Somalia have arrived in the country.

Their main task is to prolong the period of law and order ushered in when American troops stormed ashore in Mogadishu in December last year to launch Operation Restore Hope.

Banditry and violence still dog the country. On Thursday gunmen briefly abducted a Swedish nurse working for the private

charity Swedish Relief.

U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said Gurilla Liya, 40, from Stockholm, was abducted by three armed bandits when her vehicle was stopped at a checkpoint about five kilometres outside of Dusa Mareb, 320 kilometres north of Mogadishu.

"Liya was released unharmed after officials from Swede Relief consulted with local elders from Dusa Mareb and the Somali police who organised a house to house search."

Local people found Ms. Liya and demanded that the bandits free her, said Leif Windmar, programme director of Swedish Relief.

"The bandits refused, however, and the people became aggressive and even attacked the bandits throwing stones at them and beating them with sticks," said Mr. Windmar.

Two of the bandits were apprehended and one escaped.

"We're very happy with the support the people of Dusa Mareb gave us in the rescue of one of our workers," said Mr. Windmar.

Some U.S. troops convert to Islam in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Private Ivory Smith took a deep breath outside the one-room mosque and began the haunting call to Muslim dusk prayers.

His voice carried over the drone of the nearby generator, reaching a group of other U.S. soldiers clustered around a truck. They turned, obviously curious, and appeared even more puzzled to see men stripping off their desert boots to wash their feet.

Even though Americans have been serving in predominantly Muslim Somalia since the international relief operation began in early December, the teachings and rituals of Islam remain a mystery to most of them.

But an unknown number have embraced the religion. The Department of Defence said Friday it does not keep track of such conversions.

About 10 members of the 226th Supply and Service Company based in Fort Stewart, Georgia, have made the switch since January. That does not include Smith, who said he converted to Islam about 15 years ago.

Captain Bob Charles, head of the 226th, said the conversions have caused no major problems for the military.

"Of course, our mission comes first," he said. "But we've been able to work around their prayer schedules."

Every dawn and dusk, the soldiers gather at the masonry building that they have whitewashed and repaired in their spare time to serve as a mosque. A verse from the Koran is stenciled in black on the front.

A stretch of gravel marks the start of the ground. A cleansing ceremony, in which Muslims wash their hands, arms, feet and ears, is required before walking there.

Inside, the soldiers lean their M-16 rifles in a corner before kneeling in the direction of Mecca and praying beneath a bare lightbulb.

The men said they were attracted by Islam largely by curiosity and had plenty opportunity to study in their spare time. Despite the interethnic disputes among Somalia's clans, the country overwhelmingly speaks one language and adheres to one religion, Islam.

Pvt. Samuel Newman, said he had not converted yet. He had to overcome a preconceived negative image of Islam before he could even start to study.

Yemeni troops surround kidnappers and hostages

SANA (AP) — More troops were sent to a remote eastern region Friday as a standoff between authorities and tribesmen who kidnapped two American oilmen entered a fourth day.

Officials said the kidnappers are: Harvel Bennett, 347, and Bob Hicks, 37 — were holed up in the Yam Mountains between the provinces of Marib and Jawf, some 200 kilometres east of Sanaa.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the governor of Marib and key tribal leaders were trying to negotiate for the peaceful release of the hostages.

But they also said more troops were dispatched to the region and that authorities did not foresee an indefinite standoff. The size of the reinforcement force was not known.

The kidnapping was the first major test of the new government following the April 27 multi-party elections, after which the leadership promised an end to the lawlessness that prevailed over the previous period.

Foreigners, including the oilmen with the Yemen Hunt Oil Company which produces 95 per cent of Yemen's current 200,000-barrel-a-day oil output, have

been repeated targets of kidnapping and car thefts.

The kidnappers of the two Americans are demanding the release of four tribesmen who have been sentenced to death for killing a police officer during a chase.

Officials at the Hunt Company said their one direct contact with the hostages was early Thursday, when one of them used a radiotelephone to call the company.

On basis of that call, they came to know that the two had been "well-fed and reasonably well-treated," said the Hunt official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The man who called confirmed that there had been an "initial" shootout between the kidnappers and the troops, but said it was minor and neither he nor his companion were harmed.

Mr. Bennett, a drilling foreman with Yemen Hunt, and Mr. Hicks, an engineer with subcontractors Baroid Drilling Fluid Corp., were returning from field work when their car was stopped and their Yemeni driver beaten unconscious.

The military located the party at dawn the following morning and the siege began.

Car linked to blast found in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest evidence in the World Trade Centre bombing case was dropped in the lap of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) when a car the agency was hunting for turned up on a Manhattan street.

"The FBI took the automobile into custody," said city police spokesman officer Andrew McInnis, referring to a 1983 Datsun that authorities say is somehow linked to the bombing.

In a case that has benefited from hundreds of investigators chasing leads around the world, the car was found after an anonymous tip.

Mr. McInnis said a caller Thursday afternoon told police that an abandoned vehicle was resting on East 25th Street, near midtown.

Officers at the scene found no license plate. A check of the car's identification number found it was wanted by the FBI in connection with the Feb. 26 trade centre blast that killed six people and injured more than 1,000 others.

Mr. McInnis said the police bomb squad was called but found no explosives. He said he did not know the car's significance in the bomb investigation.

U.S. attorney Roger Hayes said he could not comment, even to say whether the car was a pivotal piece of evidence or one among many cars investigators had been seeking. The FBI had no comment.

Authorities have yet to identify publicly the car used by suspects to get away from the trade centre after the bomb was dropped off in a van.

It could not be determined whether authorities believed the Datsun was linked to Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, 25, the lone fugitive among six men charged with bombing the world's second-tallest buildings.

The other five charged in the bombing were scheduled to appear in federal court Friday for an arraignment on the latest indictment in the case.

Meanwhile Thursday, lawyer Ron Kuby said photographs of the trade centre found in the apartment of a man acquitted in the killing of extremist Zionist rabbi Meir Kahane were just vacation pictures.

The pictures were found in Mr. Sayid Nossir's apartment more than two years ago. Mr. Nossir was acquitted in the Kahane killing but was convicted on related weapons charges. He was in prison when the trade centre blast occurred.

Mr. Kuby said Thursday that Mr. Nossir's wife told him the pictures were seized from a bag of family photographs that included pictures of an outing to Liberty State Park in New Jersey, which affords good views of the Status of Liberty and the 110-storey twin towers across the Hudson River.

"The government's rediscovery of these family photographs is a

pathetic attempt to turn an innocent family outing, over half a decade ago, into a part of a mammoth and mythical Islamic conspiracy," Mr. Kuby said in court papers.

New York Newsday Thursday quoted unidentified investigators as saying the pictures were overlooked during the initial probe into rabbi Kahane's death.

The New York Times said: A federal grand jury issued a broadened indictment Wednesday charging all six suspects in the World Trade Centre explosion, with both bombing and conspiracy and adding some new details to the prosecution's case.

The indictment for the first time also charges that a suspect who is still being sought, Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, ordered chemicals to be delivered to a Jersey City storage locker Nov. 30. The locker was rented that same day by another defendant, Mohammad A. Salameh.

The indictment said Mr. Yousef used the pseudonym Kamal Ibrahim to place the order for the chemicals. The same alias was also used by Mr. Salameh, according to the charges.

The new charges consolidate several previous indictments and present a uniform case against all of the suspects. The six are now charged with both the actual bombing and with conspiring to carry out the attack, beginning at least in August 1992.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Larnaca (CY)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:30 Sanaa (Y)
21:00 Dubai (EM)
23:45 Damascus (SY)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Aventures de l'Espace
18:00 (Sunrise) Data
19:00 News in French
19:15 Poincaré sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Super Bloopers
21:00 Not Another Science Show
21:30 Movie
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Nothing Personal"

PRAYER TIMES

06:55 Fair
07:27 Dimur
12:33 Dimur
16:13 Asr
19:29 Maghreb
21:11 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlela, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 622785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624338
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight rise in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 14 / 29
Aqaba 21 / 36
Dajers 13 / 32
Jordan Valley 18 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 35, Hailditch readings: Amman 21 per cent, Aqaba 15 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Youssef Nasser 751144
Dr. Riaz Abu Zehab 894295
Dr. Mohammad Al Azzeh 752971
Dr. Khalid M. Adil 743030
Rena pharmacy 691912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nawroth pharmacy 626972
Al Salama pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Smeitani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:

Dr. Ali Al Shugail ()
Al Ouds Pharmacy ()

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziad Ju'ehin ()
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896380
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 877467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hassan Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Khadra Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Madhat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamskani 6641714
Shamskani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848945
Al-Mustashfi 6672219
The Islamic, Abdali 66612731
AP-Abdi, Abdali 6641646
Indian, Al-Mutajjem 771013
Al-Basheir, J. Ashrafieh 77511726
Army, Marja 89161715
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Zarqa Hospital 674135
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)902560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980732
Al-Hilal Modern Hospital (09)980990

IBRD:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722725
De Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)

09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:15 Dhahran (RJ)
10:20 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
13:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
14:45 Bangkok (RJ)
16:45 Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30 Sanaa (Y)
19:25 Rome, Beirut (AZ)
21:25 Dubai, Damascus (EM)
21:45 Larnaca (CY)
23:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45 Paris, Madrid (RJ)
13:45 Geneva, Brussels (L)
13:55 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 London (RJ)
21:45 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Larnaca (CY)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Up/down price in fils per kg

Apple 700 / 700
Banana 680 / 680
Banana (Mukawama) 630 / 630
Beans 540 / 430
Cabbage 70 / 40
Carrot 130 / 90
Cauliflower 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 180
Eggplant 300 / 100
Garlic 260 / 200
Potato 240 / 180
Lemon 580 / 500
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Mint 80
Onion (dry) 230 / 160
Onion (green) 280 / 180
Orange 400 / 250
Pepper (hot) 430 / 320
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150
Pistachio 210 / 140
Spinach 250 / 200

Home News



NAMING CEREMONY: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday attended a religious ceremony at the home of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid to name Princess Shireen, the daughter of Prince Mir'id Ben Ra'd and Princess Dina Mir'id. Present at the ceremony were Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of the King, Prime Minister Sharif

Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Prince Ra'd, Princess Majda Ra'd, Mohammad and Stefanis Khalifa, the parents of Princess Dina, Sharif Fawwas Zaben, the King's advisor on political affairs, and several Royal family members. Ahmad Helayel, the imam of the Royal Court, holds Princess Shireen while reciting prayers.



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS Princess Basma Thursday tours Queen Alia Fund Social Development Centres in Madaba and Hisban. The Princess is accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda, whose government donated sewing and

knitting machines to the centres. Japan has so far donated over \$18.7 million (JD 12.9 million) worth of various equipment to Jordan as a part of technical cooperation programme.

Madaba area QAF centres receive JD 41,500 in equipment from Japan

By Cosima Hadidi
Special to the Jordan Times

MADABA — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday two new wings were opened in the Queen Alia Fund Social Development Centres in the town of Madaba and the village of Hisban in the Madaba district.

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda accompanied the Princess on a tour through the centres which included kindergarten classes and vocational training and production units.

These units aim to help women to increase their family income.

The Japanese government donated sewing and knitting machines with a total value of JD 41,500 that are to be used for vocational training in the centres.

Japan will also send a volunteer to work in the centre this summer.

Six Japanese volunteers have already served in Queen Alia Fund centres in the Tafilah and Maan governorates. Musleh Tarawneh, governor of Maan, stressed in a speech he delivered on the occasion of the importance of social work including all sectors of society, especially women and children.

Deputy Director General, Tassir Wabneh, of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) explained in his speech the cooperation between the Queen Alia Fund, social welfare organisations and the bank.

The bank funded 91 social projects, such as youth clubs, social community centres, the National Aid Fund (NAF) and non-governmental organisations.

In Hisban, Princess Basma opened the rural market, which included products by various families who supplement their income by selling excess food and other items they produce.

International award programme looks at Jordan for basing regional centre

AMMAN (J.T. and Petra) — Simon Walkley of the London-based Secretary of the International Award/Fellowship Association (known as the Duke of Edinburgh Award International Association) Thursday praised the Crown Prince's Award programme, saying it has reached advanced standards in terms of supervision, coordination, organisation, training and evaluation.

Speaking at a press conference held at Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, Mr. Walkley said the International Award Secretariat is considering Jordan as its regional centre for the Arab World Award, in view of the capacities Jordan has shown in promoting the award and implementing activities falling within its context.

He noted that the idea of the award surfaced in 1956 in London, under the title "the Duke of Edinburgh Award" but has spread since then to 60 countries worldwide. Mr. Walkley pointed out that the number of participants in the award is nearly 3

million. Also speaking at the press conference, which was organised by the Crown Prince's Award programme, was its director, Samar Kildani, who said that the award is open to all youth aged 14 to 25 to encourage them to participate in four extracurricular educational activities, namely services, skills, trips and sports activities.

Ms. Kildani said the award encourages self-challenge and promotes participation rather than competition. It also provides an opportunity to disabled children to participate in the award activities, she said.

The award also seeks, among other things, to strengthen the sense of belonging, enhance active participation and bridge the gap between the younger generations and adults, Ms. Kildani said.

1984, before turning into a national award.

Ms. Kildani said the president of the International Award's Council has decided to hold the council's annual session in Amman from June 5-8.

This decision was prompted by the national and international reputation of the Crown Prince's Award. Taking part in the council's session will be representatives of the Mediterranean countries, Western Europe, the Caribbean and Atlantic countries, Australia, Africa and the Pacific, as well as several Arab countries.

Commenting on the council's meeting, Ms. Kildani said it is the first time the council meets outside London.

This is indicative of the importance it attaches to Jordan, she said. She added that the board comprises nine states, including Jordan, which was elected from among 60 nations participating in the international award.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Thursday holds talks with Egyptian Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah (Petra photo).

Jordanian-Egyptian holding company okays new projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Jordanian-Egyptian Investment and Development Company Thursday approved the company's plan of action and its estimated 1993 budget and suggested several projects for implementation in Jordan and Egypt, such as freezing vegetables, production of medical supplies and citric acid.

The meeting was co-chaired by visiting Egyptian Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah and Minister of Trade Abdullah Ensour.

The general assembly discussed the company's achievements, particularly in relation to the Agaba-based ammonium sulphur production project and the

clothes production project. Both officials voiced satisfaction with the achievements made so far in these two projects, which were carried out at a total cost of JD2 million and JD6 million.

Later Thursday, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received the Egyptian minister and listened to a briefing on the progress of the Jordanian-Egyptian company.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction with the company's achievements.

Sharif Zeid and Dr. Makramallah discussed trade relations and the possibility of further promoting investments in both countries. The meeting was attended by Dr. Ensour.

Nine-year-old Russeifa boy reported missing

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police and family members are looking for a nine-year-old boy missing since Tuesday in what appears to be the first reported case of his kind in several months.

Mohammad, the third son of Saleh Yousef Al Jamal, a construction worker who lives in Russeifa, did not return home Tuesday evening after going out to buy vegetables for the family, his uncle said.

The family notified Russeifa police and also released an advertisement in local newspapers with a photograph of the boy.

There was no breakthrough in the case until late Friday. It was the first reported case of a missing child in several months after an upsurge in such cases during the late 80s and 1990 and 1991.

Most of the recent advertisements of missing persons appearing in local papers related to housemaids, Sri Lankans, Filipinos and others, who had disappeared from their households mainly because of disputes over employment conditions.

Police sources said they were following the regular procedures in the case of Mohammad, a fourth grader at Emir Faisal School in Russeifa and one of five siblings — three boys and two girls.

Police have issued an all-points bulletin to police patrols and are following up leads from within the area.

A police source said, in many such reported cases investigations had found that the children went



Mohammad Saleh Jamal (9)

missing deliberately and returned to their homes after a few days.

"Family problems and disputes among family members were found to have been the reasons for the disappearances in most cases," the police source told the Jordan Times.

The source said kidnapping was extremely rare in Jordan. Mohammad Khalil Abu Sel, the missing boy's uncle, said there was no family problem of any nature that could have prompted the child to runaway.

Furthermore, as far as we could tell, the family does not have any enemies," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Abu Sel said it was not the first time that Mohammad was sent out to shops in the area and that the boy was "very familiar with the area and streets."

He said the boy had 500 fils on him when he went missing.

Switzerland converts Jordan's \$18 m debt to outright grant

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Switzerland has agreed to write-off Jordan's \$18 million debt, thus becoming one of the first European countries to respond to the Kingdom's latest request for debt relief.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Swiss government would convert the outstanding debt into an outright grant. The agreement was reached during talks here last week between Swiss Foreign Minister Under Secretary Jakob Kellenberger and Finance Minister Basel Jaradani, it added.

A Swiss delegation is expected to visit Jordan later this year to sign the related agreement, the agency said.

The Swiss gesture comes ahead of talks between Jordan and the Paris Club of creditor governments and the London Club of commercial banks and financing agencies on rescheduling the Kingdom's debts.

The talks with the Paris Club, expected to be held in June, will focus on rescheduling Jordan's debt repayments due between

July 1993 and December 1994. Jordan has already rescheduled payments due until June 30.

Although no major problem is expected in talks with the Paris Club, whose members are largely sympathetic to Jordan, the negotiations with the London Club could turn out to be tough.

Jordan and the commercial banks have not been able to conclude any agreement since 1989, when the Kingdom started negotiations to reschedule its then \$8.3 billion foreign debt. Several proposals have changed hands, but all of them were rejected by one of the two sides.

During the last round of talks early this year, Jordan tabled a proposal but the steering committee of the London Club negotiations could not reach agreement within itself. This partly exonerated Jordan, leaving the ball in the London Club's court.

Jordan has to meet several obligations under an economic restructuring programme agreed to with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), including the introduction of a sales tax, before it could open the debt rescheduling talks with a mandatory IMF

certification. Jordan's foreign debts now stand at between \$6.5 billion and \$7 billion after adjustments and cancellations of foreign debts.

The Kingdom has appealed to the European Community (EC) for debt relief. Western diplomats said their governments were likely to look at the request with sympathy and understanding. "Partial write-off of Jordan's debts is possible, but the volume and nature of such write-offs could change from country to country depending on the respective governments' outlook," said a European diplomat.

"What the creditor government would seek to avoid is setting a precedent which could be cited by other debtors seeking debt relief," said the diplomat. "So some kind of a special formula would have to be devised under which they could offer help to Jordan."

An international donors meeting held under the chairmanship of the World Bank in Paris in February agreed to grant \$380 million to Jordan to help the Kingdom's balance of payments for 1993.

Panel criticises administrative arm of Jordanian human rights group

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The general assembly of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights-Jordan Branch Wednesday approved the organisation's annual report, but criticised what it saw as the group's "administrative committee's inefficiency."

The annual report, submitted by the committee, listed the organisation's activities during last year, which mainly involved organising lectures and seminars. The report was met with protest from several members, accusing the committee of inefficiency and bureaucracy.

One of the organisation's members, Najm Alounsh, said: "I am afraid the organisation will follow the (bureaucratic) institutions' footsteps, where the letters they receive are put in one of the drawers and nobody knows anything about them."

Disgruntled members said the organisation failed to reach out to the public, and there was a considerable lack of communication between the administrative committee and the general assembly. They also claimed that the organisation's activities were so negligible that they might negatively affect the organisation's credibility.

They warned that the organisation, as it stands, might not be able to act as a pressure group on the government or any other party that violates human rights.

Many members at the Wednesday meeting pressed the administrative committee for more action. Some said that they never received any document or publication.

or even an invitation to the organisation's activities.

They said the conferences and seminars, some of the few activities run by the organisation, had poor audiences that included few members of the organisation. The majority, however, said they were not even informed of these conferences and seminars.

Hakem Fayez, a former Arab Baath Party member who spent the last 25 years in Syrian jails, said he was dismayed over the organisation's inaction regarding prisoners outside Jordan.

"There are nine prisoners at present in Syrian jails who have been there for over 20 years," Mr. Fayez, who was only released in March this year, said. "When I was in prison, I was greatly offended and dismayed by the Arab human rights organisations (not offering enough help)."

The report's most celebrated achievement — the appointment of a lawyer to attend the trial of deputies Leith Shubailat and Yacoub Qarash last year — was criticised by members who charged the organisation did not have an effective role during the trial. They said they regretted that the organisation did not issue any statement (that defended the two Islamist deputies, who were accused of sedition but later pardoned by His Majesty King Hussein).

Mr. Shubailat, a founding member of the group, said that he had submitted a report to the administrative committee last month to be reviewed and assessed, but the report was not distributed to the general assembly and was thus not discussed.

"I hope that the day will never

come when we wish that there has never been a parliament or human rights organisations," Mr. Shubailat said.

Other members criticised the lack of attention given to issues of human rights in the country. "Where was the organisation when the Press and Publications Law was passed by parliament?" one member asked. "What does the organisation do in response to the continuous censorship of books and letters?"

The members of the administrative committee, who chaired the meeting since the organisation's president Amin Shuaib and vice-president, Khaled Tarawneh were absent, responded to the assembly charges by pointing to the financial difficulties the organisation was facing.

They said the organisation's headquarters in Jabel Al Hussein lacked basic facilities necessary for the committee's work. The office can hardly accommodate its members and does not offer any of the services needed for the organisation, they maintained.

Suleiman Sweiss, one of the administrative committee's members, said that many efforts have been exerted inside the committee, but in vain. "The recent decision to form a foreign affairs committee remains to be put ink on paper," Dr. Sweiss indicated.

A call for an emergency meeting of the general assembly to discuss proposals submitted by the members was accepted by the administrative committee, who promised the meeting would be held in two months time.

Consumer protectionists recommend legislation

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the role of legislation in protecting consumers, held recently at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, recommended that legislation be developed and adapted to cope with scientific and technological advances.

Participants in the symposium, which concluded here late Thursday, recommended that a special body be set up at the Ministry of Justice to try violators of the supply law and to discourage such violations.

They criticised the present laws, saying that they are not sufficiently deterring violators and are not consistent with the degree of harm they cause to consumers.

The participants also recommended that work be speeded up on the enactment of a new specification and measurements law that will ensure the independence of the Specification and Measurements Department.

The symposium called for adopting sound economic policies capable of ensuring the supply of basic commodities and tightening controls on prices in cooperation with officials from the various governorates.

Participants stressed the need to enact a special legislation on food to unify the parties in charge of maintaining control on the production and or importing of food in accordance with specifications and avoiding duplication of work by the different parties.

In the field of drugs, the symposium called for amending the legislation governing the circulation of drugs.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by artist Abdul Hayy Musallam at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rafiq Al Lahham at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Pan-Arabism and Nationalism in the Holy Koran" by Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Kayyali at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6.30 p.m.

U.S. wants Israeli report

(Continued from page 1)

must be made because there is no other way, no other solution, not for the Jewish people and not for the Palestinians," Israeli Radio said.

Hadash, which has three legislators in the 120-member Israeli parliament, voted Wednesday to continue backing the centre-left government of Mr. Rabin from

outside as long as it sticks to the peace talks.

Hadash support might become crucial if the ultra-orthodox Shas faction makes good on threats to pull out of Mr. Rabin's coalition over religious-secular disputes. Hadash and two other Arab legislators give Mr. Rabin the necessary majority to hang on to power.

Israel says closure for good

(Continued from page 1)

to be released Friday.

Officials have announced Israel would release a total of 280 Palestinians ahead of next week's 'Eid Al Adha feast. They said the step applied only to minors, the ill, woman and the elderly, and those about to complete sentences for victimless offences.

As some prisoners tasted freedom other Palestinians who had managed to go on working in Israel despite a two-month ban

on entry found themselves barred again.

Palestinians said over the last three days soldiers had been confiscating entry permits in Gaza without explanation.

The army said 6,532 Palestinians were being held for "security" offences as of May 10. Of those, 3,843 had been convicted, 575 were awaiting sentencing, 1,803 had been remanded until the end of proceedings, and 311 had been jailed without trial.

U.S. products on display in week-long exhibit in June

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "America at its best" is the title of a week-long exhibition of U.S. products and services to be held in Amman next month in what is seen as another step towards developing American-Jordanian relations.

The exhibition, which opens its doors on June 14 at the Amman Marriott Hotel, is expected to bring together around 40 American firms and their agents and distributors in Jordan, and will include jazz concerts, movies, photographic displays and food.

The exhibition is organised by the U.S. embassy here in cooperation with Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, and the Amman Marriott Hotel.

Announcing the first-of-its-kind event, American Ambassador Roger Harrison told a press conference Thursday that Washington was keen to develop relations with Jordan in various

fields. He noted that an American automobile show was held here last month, attracting up to 11,000 visitors, and that the embassy was also contributing to raising awareness in the U.S. of Jordanian potential.

"Jordan has all the ingredients for development — education, human resources and local infrastructure," he said. "But it needs to project itself and learn from other experiences and expertise."

Mr. Harrison also noted that the U.S. government had contributed to various infrastructure projects — such as the Amman-Dead Sea Highway and the Jordan Valley canal — and said that Washington was now focusing on developing the Commodity Export Programme (CIP) under which Jordanian exporters get credit guaranteed by the U.S. government.

According to figures released

by the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of the Near East, U.S. exports to Jordan in 1992 totalled \$249.9 million and American imports from the Kingdom were worth \$18.6 million compared with \$219.7 million and \$6.4 million respectively in 1991.

In the first two months of this year, the U.S. exported goods worth \$74.3 million to Jordan while its imports from Jordan totalled \$2.6 million.

Also addressing Thursday's press conference, Akel Biltaji, RJ vice-president for marketing and services, referred to the resumption of RJ flights to Chicago this month and that there was new interest in Jordan among Americans.

Mr. Biltaji also said that two RJ cargo planes were on a regular "air bridge" between Jordan and the U.S., and that there was a steady flow of goods both ways. "A great part of the cargo going westwards is Jordanian pro-

ducts, like garments and carpets," he said. Computers formed the bulk of the Jordan-bound cargo carried by the RJ aircraft, he said.

The carrier is involved in continuous efforts to promote Jordan as a tourism destination, Mr. Biltaji said. He noted that the U.S. government had lifted a one-month travel advisory against Jordan in April.

RJ is offering free transport to exhibitors participating in next month's event in Amman.

Frank Keenan, general manager of the Amman Marriott Hotel, said 35 firms had confirmed their participation and at least another five were expected to do so soon. He said Marriott, part of an American chain, was hoping to institute the exhibition as an annual event.

Among the exhibitors for this year are: Hertz Rent-a-Car, Caltex, American Airlines, Citibank, De-

lta Airlines, American Express, Discover the World, IMC, Khalaf Stores, Stream Company, Miquadi/Alamo Rent-a-Car, Abu Roza Trading Company, Satellite World, Ideal Systems, Yellow Pages, Champions, the Jordan Book Centre, Cuno Inc., Rafed Trading Company, Commercial and Industrial Company, US Air, Hasan Kalaghasi Commercial Group, Dajani International, BBBI, Rashid Snokrot & Sons, Shaheen Business and Investment Group (Kodak), Tiger Stores, RJ, Tannous Company, IBM/GBM, Wafa Dajani & Sons and Parker.

The famous Gert Seagar Jazz Quartet from Boston will perform nightly at the hotel during the exhibition, which will also offer prizes for visitors.

A final decision on entrance fee has not been taken yet pending a consensus among the exhibitors, said Joseph Khoury of Marriott.

Jordan Times

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Licence to kill?

IN ITS crackdown on Muslim militants, Egypt is resorting to a brutal campaign of torture, mass arrests and killings, giving its security forces "a licence to kill with impunity," Amnesty International said in a report last week.

The report adds to the already long list of human rights violations by the Egyptian regime, which seems to be pushing its country further into the abyss of oppression, fear and instability.

No one can condone the unjustified, unlawful and brutal acts of the Al Jama'a Al Islamiya, which sparked the violence and has been reportedly responsible for the killing of tens of innocent Egyptian and foreign nationals. But the Egyptian regime seems to be fighting crime with crime, an approach that will only strengthen the cause of the militants among Egypt's disgruntled population.

Crime can only beget crime and violence can only breed violence.

The militants are acting outside the law and it is no surprise that they are breaking it. But the government's duty is to protect the law and use it to protect its citizens; not abuse it and disregard the orders of its own courts and violate the rights of its own people.

Egypt can look at the experience of other countries in the region in dealing with fundamentalist violence to realise that oppression and counter violence are not the solution. Nearly a year after the Algerian regime forced the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) underground, imprisoned its leaders and triggered the guns to end its political activities, Algeria is increasingly falling into a cycle of seemingly endless violence that is growing in intensity and size every day. The Egyptian regime's handling of the problem is sure to put the country on the same bloody and chaotic path.

The Egyptian government has yet to awaken to the bills of human rights that are ringing in every corner of the world. No regime can survive against this tide of unprecedented democratisations and political reforms. The largest country in the Arab World with a claim to its leadership, Egypt must set an example of democracy, tolerance and respect for the human being rather than one of oppression.

The Egyptian opposition is to blame for preferring bullets to words in demanding that government heed its partly legitimate calls for reform. But the government is committing worse crimes by resorting to the same unlawful methods of the militants. "Provocation from armed opposition groups is never a reason to step outside international law," said Amnesty International. It is never a reason for issuing a licence to kill.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily called for Arab-Arab talks to chart a unified strategy that can help the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli talks with their mission. As preparations are getting under way for the resumption of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, no sign has yet emerged about the prospect of holding an Arab-Arab meeting, despite the fact that all Arab states support the Arab-Israeli negotiations, said the paper. It is indeed sad to see the Arabs and the Israelis holding nine rounds of talks, albeit without concrete results so far, and not to see one round of Arab-Arab negotiations aimed at ending differences among Arab regimes, continued the daily. It said that unless the present differences end, the Arab states can by no means achieve solidarity and the aspired unified stand, especially at a time when the Arab World is having the so-called new world order being imposed on it by foreign powers. The developments of the past few years, said the daily, had had their direct negative effects on Iraq and Kuwait, but they had also had their adverse impact on the Arab World as a whole, added the daily. It said that those who have been deceived by imaginary victories over their Arab brothers should reconsider the situation in light of the new developments and should embark on steps that can lead to genuine reconciliation. The paper said that it is unreasonable for the Arabs to go on negotiating with Israel without a unified stand which can only come through pan-Arab reconciliation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i dwelt on Iran's continued enmity towards the Arab World, citing its attitude with regard to Iraq. Referring to the recent Iranian air raids on Iraqi territory, Tareq Massarweh said that there is no difference between Iranian or American war planes raiding Iraq as long as the Americans and the Iranians are in agreement subduing the Iraqi people. Noting that the Iranians have all along showed their enmity towards Iraq, the writer drew attention to the fact that Iran had leashed saboteurs on Iraqi territory in the wake of the Western coalition's aggression on Iraq causing more destruction to Iraqi property than the American raids. Since the days of the Shah, said the writer, Iran has been in collusion with the Western world against Iraq and has been exploiting the explosive Kurdish problem in northern Iraq in order to stir internal trouble for the Iraqi government. Furthermore, Iran has, over the years, hosted Iraqi opposition groups financing their operations inside and outside Iraq, he added. The writer also drew attention to the fact that Iran stabbed the Iraqis in the back during the Western coalition's aggression in 1991, noting that Tehran could be currently involved in other plots against its Arab neighbours.

Resolution 181

Binding decision, mutually - inclusive rights

By Pascal B. Karmy

In a rare news conference held with Israeli journalists in Vienna a few days ago, the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat stated, among other matters, the following (as reported in the Jordan Times, May 20-21, 1991): "You have to ask yourselves, how long can you depend on power? When you deny the existence of a Palestinian state, you are denying the existence of Israel because the two go hand-in-hand."

It may be that the last part of Mr. Arafat's statement is incomprehensible to many people, especially to those who are not conversant with international law or with the basis of the Palestine problem from 1948 and thereafter. I shall try to explain this matter rather briefly, without delving into lengthy legal arguments.

On Nov. 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations issued Resolution 181 (II) for the partition of Palestine and the creation of independent Arab and Jewish states and the establishment of a Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem. The state of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948, on the eve of the termination of the British Mandate over Palestine. The Jewish state was proclaimed, apart from the alleged "historic right", on the strength of the above-mentioned resolution of the General Assembly. The Palestinians, on the other hand, did not accept the Partition Resolution because they considered that the United Nations had neither the right nor the jurisdiction to partition their ancestral homeland and inasmuch as they formed in 1947 the great majority

of the indigenous inhabitants of Palestine (there were 1,200,000 Palestinian Arabs and 600,000 Jews, the majority of whom were Jewish immigrants from Europe particularly from the ex-Soviet Union and the communist states of Eastern Europe, and who had no historical or even religious connection with Palestine).

Whatever the case may be, the Jews relied on the Partition Resolution to proclaim their state in Palestine. Moreover, the proclamation stated that the "state of Israel is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of Nov. 29, 1947." Afterwards, the foreign secretary of the provisional government of Israel wrote to the United Nations secretary-general to inform him of the proclamation of the state of Israel and of

the new state's readiness to cooperate in the implementation of the Partition Resolution and to seek a solution to all problems that may arise. Thus Israel had based itself on the Partition Resolution to justify its occupation of the territory envisaged for the Jewish state, but had at the same time violated the same resolution by its occupation of territories earmarked for the Palestinian Arab state. Indeed, United Nations mediator Count Folke Bernadotte made some suggestions to the parties of the conflict for a solution of the Palestine conflict but the Israeli provisional government rejected them outright on the grounds that they "appear to ignore the resolution of the General Assembly of Nov. 29, 1947, which remains the only internationally valid adjudication on the question of the future government of Palestine." (Diary

of Folke Bernadotte: "To Jerusalem" page 149).

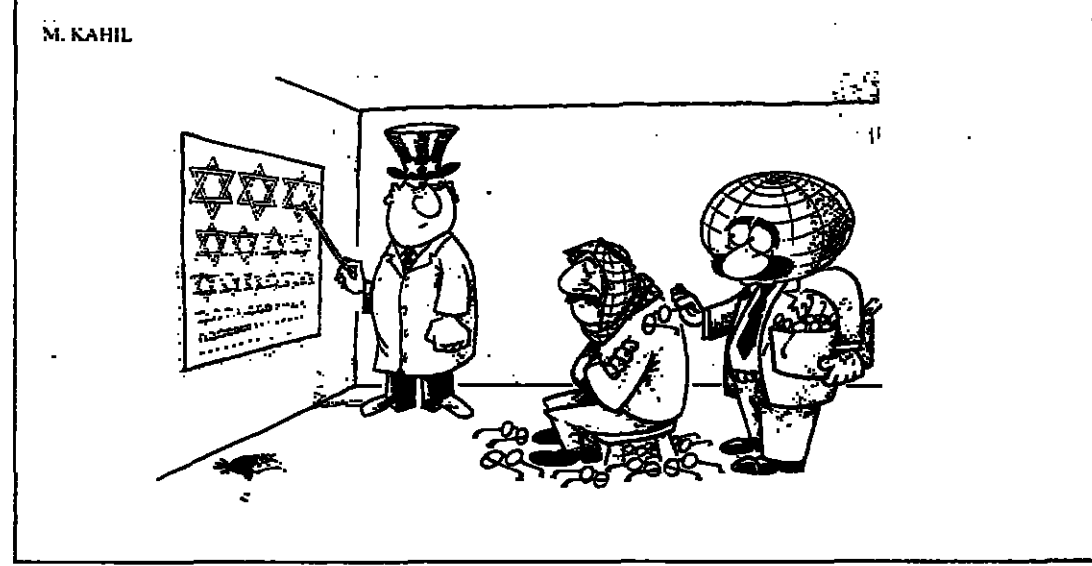
In his progress report to the General Assembly, dated Sept. 16, 1948, Count Bernadotte stated, among other things, the following: "Whatever may be the precise legal significance of the status of the Nov. 29 resolution, it would seem quite clear to me that the situation is not of such a nature as to entitle either party to act on the assumption that such parts of the resolution as may be favourable to it may be regarded as effective, while other parts which may, by reason of changes of circumstances, be regarded as unfavourable, are to be considered to be ineffective." It is to be noted that on the day following the submission of the above-mentioned Progress Report, i.e. on Sept. 17, 1948, Count Bernadotte and his companion Colonel Sérot were savagely murdered at

point blank by the Jewish Stern Gang in Jerusalem because he was honest and unbiased in his reports to the General Assembly.

In 1949, when Israel applied for membership to the United Nations, it undertook to abide by General Assembly resolutions including in particular the Partition Resolution of 1947 and Resolution 194 (III) of Dec. 11, 1948, concerning the repatriation of the Palestine refugees to their homes. It was on that basis that Israel was admitted to the United Nations membership. Israel cannot appropriate and reprobate at the same time. In other words, Israel cannot claim title to the territory envisaged for the Jewish state under the Partition Resolution and deny at the same time title to the territories earmarked for the Arab state by the same resolution. In doing so, the Israelis deny their own birth certificate. This is in effect what is meant by Mr. Yasser Arafat's statement.

Furthermore, there can be no question of prescription of the right of the Palestinians to create their state on their territory as they have never relinquished their right to it and they have all along been claiming their inherent and natural right to self-determination on their territory.

With regard to the United States opposition to a Palestinian state on Palestinian territory, it should be pointed out that it was the U.S. which had enormously pressured the General Assembly members of the United Nations to vote for the partition of Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish state; it cannot now logically turn around and oppose the creation of an Arab state in Palestine.



You cannot silence freedom of expression with tanks and guns

Publishing under fire

Kemal Kurspahic is editor in chief of the Sarajevo daily Oslobođenje (Liberation). He supervises a multiethnic staff of 60 journalists who have published daily throughout the siege of Sarajevo. Three staff members have been killed, five are missing and more than 20 have been injured. Kurspahic left Sarajevo for the first time in more than a year recently to accept the Courage in Journalism Award from the International Media Foundation. Following are excerpts from an interview Newsweek's Karen Bresnan and Tom Post had with him in New York:

How do you manage to publish a newspaper in a war zone?

A: Our building is totally destroyed. We work underground in the nuclear-bomb shelter. When it was built, we made jokes that it was some kind of communist paranoia that would require us to build something like that. I have a team of 10 journalists and editors who come on Mondays and stay at work for seven days. They sleep there and eat whatever we can provide them. We run a fuel-powered generator four hours a day to operate the typewriters and the presses. The rest of the time we work by candlelight. The phone lines and the faxes have been out for the past two months. Our staff have to go out and sell the newspaper themselves. It's usually sold out in one-half hour.

Kemal Kurspahic

selves. It's usually sold out in one-half hour.

Q: And you have not yet missed an issue?

A: No, we publish seven days a week. Since the city was besieged and sealed in April last year, we have not been able to get newsprint, so we reduced the circulation and the number of pages in order to prolong the life of the paper. We used some paper intended for textbooks and some intended for posters. We have had to change our format 13 times. We also changed colours.

Some days the paper would appear in blue, some days it was pink. One day it appeared in green. And then the Serb extremists in Pale said, "They have finally revealed themselves as Muslim fundamentalists."

Q: Because green is the Muslim colour?

A: Yes, we had to laugh at that. The makeup of my staff reflects almost perfectly the ethnic picture of Bosnia. There are 30 per cent Serbs, 40 per cent Muslims, 10 or 15 per cent Croats, a few Jews and people who declare themselves Yugoslavs. We don't have any problem with that. Contrary to the expectations of those who wanted to silence us, we proved you cannot silence the freedom of expression with tanks and with guns.

Q: Is defiance what keeps you going?

A: It's more a sense of professional responsibility. We can't consider stopping what we do if we have our foreign colleagues coming to cover the war in Bosnia, exposing themselves to real danger. How could we, who live there, whose city it is, think about

giving up on that? There is also the sense of responsibility to our readership. You have people who suffer so much. We can't leave them.

Q: Many observers of this war have come to think of it as the Serbs vs. the Muslims, as the Croats, but you've obviously demonstrated that's not the case.

A: This war was imported and imposed on Bosnia by the regime in Serbia. The people who organised this aggression never really belonged to our culture of ethnic and cultural tolerance. The Serbs in Sarajevo are exposed to the same kind of terror as anyone else. When the shells hit apartment buildings they don't discriminate, because we all share those apartment buildings. That was not a case of ethnic conflict within Bosnia, but of aggression against Bosnia to seize territory and to make the dream empire of Greater Serbia possible.

Q: It is naive to think that airstrikes would slow down the pace of the war?

A: Airstrikes alone are not enough. But they would serve as a message that the world won't tolerate this form of aggression. It would be the first blow that the Serbian extremists have suffered. We deal with people who understand only the language of force. Then you have to have some sort of balance of forces on the

ground. It's crazy to tell us that there are too many weapons there. There are, but they are all in the wrong hands. One side is heavily armed and exterminating people there. The third step is to tighten the sanctions. The fourth, we have to impose a just political settlement. And finally, we have to stage war-crime trials.

Q: Might air-strikes provoke retaliatory artillery attacks on Sarajevo?

A: For more than a year we've been exposed to daily artillery attacks. Every day people die. Even if nothing is done we would be exterminated anyway.

Q: What's the first thing you want to do when the siege ends?

I'm sure that at the first night of peace in Sarajevo, you would have people who belong to different ethnic groups — Croats, Muslims, Serbs — visiting each other's apartments, sitting together at cafes, enjoying the sun. I'm sure our culture wasn't destroyed by this aggression. I was asked by the mayor of Strasbourg what European cities could do for Sarajevo, and my first answer was to bring us trees. When I left the city and went to Zagreb, for the first time I noticed trees with leaves and blossoms. I hadn't realised it was spring, because in Sarajevo there are no trees anymore.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Media calls for amendments to the election law

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The daily press last week gave prominence to the situation in the Israeli-held Arab lands, the coming meeting of Arab foreign ministers to decide on the next step in the Arab-Israeli peace process, Arab affairs and domestic issues.

Al Ra'i, in an editorial Friday, demanded the release of all Arab detainees from Israeli jails to pave the ground for peace. The setting free of 250 Arabs by the Israeli authorities on the occasion of Eid Al Adha does not change the fact that Israel pursues its organised terrorist campaigns against the Palestinian people, said the paper.

Israel still detains thousands of young men who are undergoing all forms of torture in jails and who deserve to have freedom and to live in a free country, added the paper.

The release of the 250 men was a propaganda stunt organised by the Israelis to improve their image before the outside

world but, said the paper, the Palestinians are in need of full protection from Israel's continued acts of terrorism.

Al Dustour referred to a recent decision by the U.N. Security Council to form an international tribunal to try war criminals in the former Yugoslavia. It said that while the world community's eyes are being directed to this tribunal, nothing is being said about the atrocities committed by Israel in the occupied Arab lands.

The Israeli military authorities are committing many more brutal acts and dastardly crimes; a tribunal is required to try the Israeli leaders and world community protection is needed for the Palestinians, who seek their freedom.

Referring to the upcoming meeting between the foreign ministers of Arab countries involved in the peace process, Sawt Al Shaab daily called on

the Arab states to strengthen their stand and demand a postponement of the 10th session as an open protest against the futility of the previous nine sessions. It said that with such a move the Arabs would force the U.S. administration to honour its commitment to play the role of full partner and force Israel to respect U.N. resolutions. The paper said the coming meeting, to be held in Amman, should also display a united and concerted Arab front.

It was because the Israelis seek to split the Arabs and breach the unity of the Palestinian front at the peace talks that the U.S. administration has now called for an Israeli-Palestinian separate meeting to take place before the 10th session in Washington, said Mohammad Kharoub, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

The writer said that all the Arab parties should be very

careful in their diplomatic moves lest Israel found a way to end the united Arab stand at the peace process.

Abdul Rahim Omar, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that preparations for a new war scenario in the Gulf region seem to be under way as foreign powers are seeking to pit Iran and Iraq against each other in another devastating war with the aim of weakening the two parties.

The writer said that Iran could be encouraged to seek revenge on Iraq for its defeat in the eight-year war and to start the war with repeated air raids on Iranian opposition groups inside Iraqi territory.

Iran is now tempted to go to war with Iraq because the latter has been weakened by the sanctions and a war would help speed up the partition of Iraq, said the writer.

Iran's foreign minister's tour

in the Gulf has achieved success on several fronts, according to Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that the tour aimed at allaying Arab Gulf countries' fears of a possible threat coming from Tehran as the Egyptian president has claimed during his recent tour in the Gulf states.

Furthermore, the tour has opened the way for an improvement in relations between Iran and the Gulf states in a bid to help Iran win the favour of the U.S. administration.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, joined other columnists in Arabic dailies in calling on the government to introduce Amendments to the present election law. The writer said the majority of political groups in the Kingdom are in agreement that the present law is pocked by loopholes and does not cater to

Law group seeks greater protection of human rights

By Wendy S. Ross

WASHINGTON — The United Nations conference on human rights scheduled for June 14-25 in Vienna should focus on finding ways to strengthen the world body's ability to protect human rights around the world, say three legal experts.

Professors Louis Henkin, Hurst Hannum and Diane Orentlicher — members of a working group at the American Society of International Law (ASIL) — spoke before a group of legislators and administration officials May 25 on their organisation's recommendations for the meeting.

The world urgently needs to find ways to protect the rights of the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons, said Henkin, president of ASIL and a professor at Columbia University School of Law. "What we want to get ready for the Vienna Conference is identification of the issues and what the United States government should do about them."

The ASIL recommendations call for establishment of a special U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights, which the U.S. government endorses; and for a range of measures for strengthening existing U.N. human rights structures, including a permanent human rights court.

Mr. Hannum, associate professor of international law at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University, urged the United States to be among the leaders in helping to find an effective enforcement mechanism for the rights of minorities. The 1992 U.N. General Assembly declaration on their rights "provides for no enforcement mechanism whatsoever," he noted.

On the whole, the United Nations has done a good job at establishing legal standards for human rights, said Ms. Orentlicher, a professor of law at American University. But it "still has a long way to go in establishing legal consequences when human rights violations take place," she noted.

There is "a striking disconnect" between the legal standards and the "fairly general reticence to press states to prosecute violators," Ms. Orentlicher said. She emphasised that unless there are consequences for violators, "there is really no protection for human rights."

Mr. Henkin pointed out that the notion of enforcement should not be viewed as an invasion of a nation's sovereignty, and human rights violations by one country are a legitimate concern of other countries.

The ASIL working group urged the United States to adhere to major international conventions and covenants on human rights. These include the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which has been before the Senate since 1977; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women which has been before the Senate since 1980; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 1992, the United States ratified the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with reservations — United States Information Agency.

What is needed, said the writer, is an amendment that can guarantee fairness and equality for all governorates in the voting and election processes.

Mona Shugair, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, urged Jordanian women to adopt a new and objective approach in their bid to win support from the electorate in the coming parliamentary elections.

She said that more awareness campaigns should be launched among women's groups not only to inform them of their responsibilities, but also to encourage them to adopt certain attitudes and undertake united policies that can contribute to socio-political development.

The writer said that women's drive and actions to attain equality with men should not stop but should be able to convince the Jordanian society.

Our plunge into the gene pool

Biological knowledge is about to change the world as we know it

By Bryan Appleyard

ALMOST 40 years ago, the double helix structure of the DNA molecule was deciphered in Cambridge. In July, the Steven Spielberg movie Jurassic Park opens in Britain. The film is about the recreation of dinosaurs using DNA from blood found inside a mosquito preserved in amber. It is based on the single most startling idea of all life with rare exceptions is connected by a single, fabulously competent, chemical messenger. Spielberg is evidently moved by this holistic vision. In his film ET, the cry goes up from one scientist trying to revive the dying alien: "He's got DNA!" We are one with the universe, the messenger tells us, nobody is a stranger here.

Popular culture says many things; most are trivial, but this time it is on to the big one. Forty years down the line from Watson and Crick it is clear that biology possesses the most powerful knowledge of the age. Physics made this century, transforming the electromagnetic culture of the 19th into the electromagnetic one of the 20th. And, for the moment, physics remains the scientific market leader. The most popularly evocative science stories are still about physics. Big Science still means gigantic particle colliders or space telescopes. These are the paraphernalia of our creation myths.

But now Big Science also means the multinational, multi-billion pound project to "sequence" the human genome; the effort to plot the entire genetic structure of human DNA. This project has poetry for the movies, but it also has something that the weird speculations of high physics do not have — immediate practical impact. Some version of human destiny in the form of susceptibility to disease, longevity, intelligence and, maybe, charac-

ter, seems to be at least partially encoded in the chemistry of the genome. The physicians may be able to claim that somewhere in those ripples lies the clue to our "ultimate" origin. But biologists can potentially claim so much more: a clear, direct, useable narrative about our existence.

As a result, physics, it is now commonly stated, is dead. Long live biology. The bizarre and frequently inept excursions by the popularisers of physics into the realms of the theological and the philosophical are symptoms of its decadence and its impending decline. They are about to be usurped. The 21st century will be dominated by the impact of this new knowledge and its accompanying technology. Science will take on a new human intimacy as it finally crosses the barrier at which it has always faltered — the barrier of the self.

The "future shock" associated with this development has not yet been felt. Perhaps we are still too enmeshed in the disorientations of the physics culture — nuclear weapons may have been adequately sublimated, but the information revolution arising, ultimately, from quantum theory is still being slowly and uneasily absorbed. And the huge changes promised by biology are still in the future. Sequencing the genome may, for example, point us to the specific gene that causes cystic fibrosis or muscular dystrophy, but further knowledge and technologies are required before we can act upon this information.

Yet the first developments are definitely with us in the form of some limited applications of gene therapy and in the artificial production of substances such as human growth hormone — a development that has already moved from the therapeutic to the cosmetic. It has been offered as a treatment, not just for dwarfism but also for people who feel they are unattractively short. And it is absolutely clear that momen-

ter developments are on the way; that we are to be confronted with a whole new realm of choice.

"The availability of so many options," writes Tom Wilkie in his massively informative book on the subject, "is something very new in human experience." We know where we are heading and consequently, as the philosopher Bernard Williams has pointed out, it is wrong for us to relax our moral guard just because some things are not possible now. "It is a requirement on moral argument," Williams has said, "that it shouldn't simply stop at mere technical fact and say that the question does not yet arise."

But where to start? The scope of the moral argument may be said to be as vast as the genome itself; there are as many subtleties as there are "base pairs" in human DNA — three billion. We may feel relaxed about curing cystic fibrosis with gene therapy, but what about designing our babies, or perhaps even curing cystic fibrosis or AIDS by "germline" therapy that involves intervening permanently and perhaps unpredictably in the human gene pool?

There are many issues, but, really, there is only one: eugenics, whose bland dictionary presence states that it is "the study of methods of improving the quality of the human race." For most people the very word is tainted. There was much toying with the idea — by, among others, Churchill — in the technologically confident early decades of this century. The fear among the educated was that the poor were breeding too quickly and, as a result, the quality of the general stock of humanity would deteriorate. The crude prescriptions included government control of fertility and marriage; a strategy whose one redeeming feature was that it inspired a brilliant, book-length condemnation from G K Chesterton.

"They can offer us nothing," he wrote of the eugenicists in *Eugenics and Other Evils*, "but the same stuffy science, the same bullying bureaucracy and the same terrorism by tenth-rate professors that have led the German Empire to its recent conspicuous triumph."

That was in 1922. In the event, the Germans were to make Chesterton's case for him even more conclusively. Nazism embraced eugenics, and controlling human fertility in the name of social engineering ceased to be a respectable option.

But, in anticipation of the coming sovereignty of biology, eugenics is quietly becoming respectable again. Moral philosophers

such as John Harris at Manchester University are attempting to see beyond the gut loathing the word provokes. After all, he points out, it only means planning for better offspring in a better world and who could object to that? Parents use money and other wiles to improve the condition of their children, why should they not also employ biology? Furthermore, although germ-line technology for eradicating AIDS may hold risks for future generations, will there not come a point when those risks are outweighed by the risks of doing nothing?

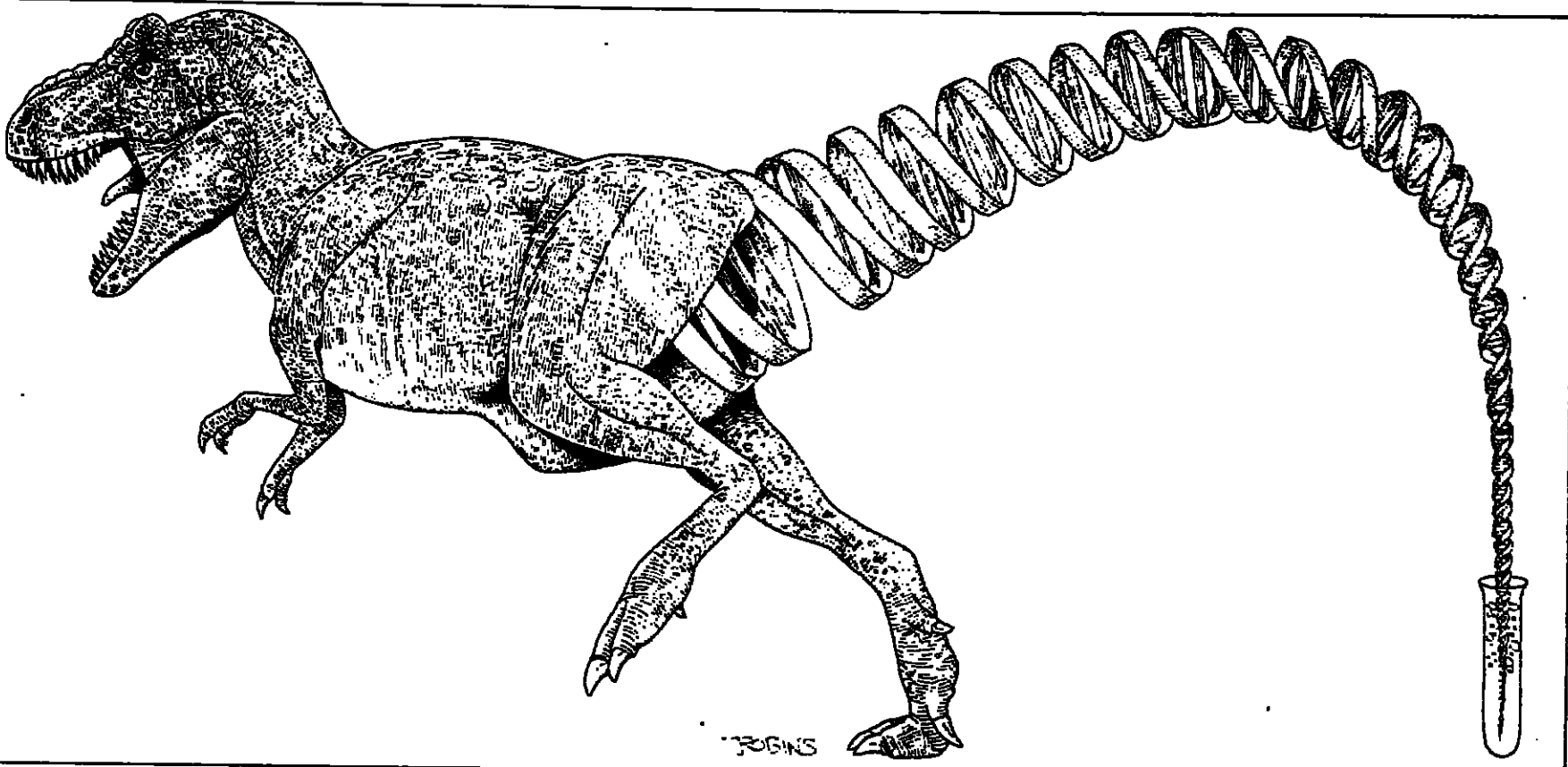
Harris is right to ask these questions. Recalling in historical awareness horror from all this is not an option. Eugenics will arrive

through the marketplace, if not through legislation. The offering of growth hormone as a cosmetic treatment is but one portent. Designing all kinds of characteristics into babies will unquestionably soon be possible and, if the eugenically inclined rich cannot find such services in this country, they will obtain them elsewhere. They may be disappointed — no serious biologist would claim that genetics is the full story of our destiny and they would know that the impact of environment and upbringing is at least as important — but the option to gamble would be on offer. But, as Chesterton saw, rigging the game for the living is one thing, rigging it for the unborn is quite another.

He wrote of selecting a wife on the basis of her breeding capacities: "The baby that does not exist can be considered even before the wife who does." This is the point: biology will offer us the power to be conceptually and morally implicated in the nature of future generations. This may be perfectly rational, but we are not likely to be good at it. Horrible mistakes are certain to be made as they invariably are when technological ambition outstrips sensible caution.

The real point, however, is nothing to do with such rationality. It is again captured by Chesterton when he muses that "Keats died young; but he had more pleasure in a minute than a

Eugenicist gets in a month." The uncertainty and ultimately indefinable nature of our experience is fundamental to our conception of what it is to be human. A consumptive genius is a phenomenon we like to feel is beyond any rational balancing of probabilities and, crazy as it may seem, it is natural occasionally to muse that the aborted foetus or the child unconceived because of wise genetic counselling could have been Keats. Biologists will say they are not threatening any of that, they are simply pursuing knowledge. This is true, but inadequate, for knowledge changes things and, now, it is about to change everything — The Independent.



'Quagmire' fear forces western hand in Bosnia

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — Fear of a military "quagmire" in Bosnia has been the decisive factor in western policy there, forcing governments into a series of climbdowns of which the new plan for containing the war is the latest, analysts said.

Among all the disagreements between the big powers over what to do about the Yugoslav conflict, one thing has united them: None was ready to send troops to stop the fighting by force.

"One looks at the long-term strategic interests of the various countries, and Bosnia isn't among them," said Ken Petrie of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Lee Hamilton, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, concluded at the weekend: "No western leader was prepared to put the kind of resources into the Balkans necessary to roll back Serbian aggression."

The plan announced on Saturday by the foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Spain calls for creation of "safe havens" for Bosnian Muslims, continued U.N. sanctions on Serbia and sending off the Serbia-Bosnia border.

But it drops U.S. threats to bomb the Serbs — except to protect U.N. troops in the safe havens — or to lift an arms embargo for the Muslims. It mentions the Vance-Owen peace plan, the former linchpin of west-

ern policy, only as a long-term goal.

Vance-Owen would require the Serbs to give up much of the territory they have seized in over a year of fighting in Bosnia. Saturday's announcement was welcomed by the Serbs, but the Muslims accused the world of appeasing Serb "aggression."

In Britain, whose government has been among the firmest opponents of military intervention, most newspapers have denounced the plan for sacrificing Bosnia's Muslims on the altar of western unity, an assessment shared by several analysts.

"It's obvious that the principal achievement is mending the disarray in the western camp rather than trying to do anything to save a place called Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Mark Wheeler of London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, however, described the weekend initiative as realistic, and said the sanctions against Serbia would in the end bring the Bosnian Serbs round to a negotiated settlement with the rival Muslims and Croats.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, who succeeded Cyrus Vance as chief U.N. negotiator on Yugoslavia, called the compromise a "very real basis for progressive implementation of (the Vance-Owen) plan."

Several analysts argued that the weekend announcement followed inevitably from the policy, pursued from the beginning, of refusing to send in troops in a combat role.

"There isn't a great deal (the

big powers) can do if there's no stomach for putting troops on the ground. Air power cannot hold ground — never has done and never will do," said Petrie.

In ruling out such intervention, experts said, the major players have been influenced by memories of their own most disastrous military entanglements.

For the United States, Bosnia threatened to become a new Vietnam, for Britain a rerun of Northern Ireland, for France another Algeria and for Russia a repeat of Afghanistan.

Although experts differed over how easily Bosnia could be pacified by a multinational force, most agreed that such a force would need to stay for years before the rival factions would agree on a political settlement, if they ever did.

While the allied campaign to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in 1991 offered the goal of protecting oil interests and the prospect of a straightforward, winnable war against an identifiable enemy, Bosnia offered neither, analysts said.

"It's obvious that the principal achievement is mending the disarray in the western camp rather than trying to do anything to save a place called Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The single thread of staying out of the quagmire has run through all the twists and turns of western policy since fighting broke out in Bosnia in April last year.

Early attempts by the European Community to broker a peace focused on setting up a ceasefire to give time for political negotiations. But the ceasefires all collapsed.

The Vance-Owen process set up by a London conference last August reversed priorities. Mr. Vance and his co-mediator Lord Owen argued that until a political settlement was agreed, no ceasefire would hold.

The latest plan appears to revert to the original idea of silencing the guns first, then working on a political deal.

But many analysts doubt whether the safe havens plan will stop the fighting. While the Bosnian Serbs have hinted they may now have achieved all their territorial aims, the Croats are still fighting Muslims in areas they claim as their own.

The Muslims are in any case likely to fight on in an attempt to recapture land they have lost, the analysts said.

EC faces environmental headache on regions

By Chris Porter
Reuters

BRUSSELS — As the European Community (EC) gets back on track for economic and monetary union, it faces a major environmental headache — how to drag its poorest regions up to the economic standards of their richer cousins without wrecking some of Europe's most unspoiled areas.

As part of the price for getting southern countries to sign up to the Maastricht Treaty, the EC will pour an average of 25 billion European Currency Units (\$30 billion) a year of development funds into its most impoverished regions up to the end of the decade.

But European Members of Parliament (Euro-MPs) and ecology groups have long been saying that the community must be more careful about the environmental impact that its so-called structural funds can have.

"All our regional policy has to remain extraordinarily alert to the needs of the environment," Greek Euro-MP Panayotis Lambrias told the European Parliament's Regional Affairs Committee earlier this month.

Tony Long, head of the Brussels Office of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), is also sharply critical of the EC's regional funding policy to date.

"There really is very little emphasis on environmental control," Mr. Long told Reuters.

He added that the EC's executive commission, which approves

and monitors structural funding projects, must take its share of the blame. It has chosen the wrong kind of schemes and then struck by them when things go wrong, he said.

"They've backed the wrong horses and then they've not left themselves an easy way out," Mr. Long added.

He cites a commission decision last October to release EC structural funds for a tourism project in Ireland, despite warnings that it could cause serious environmental damage.

In its defence, the commission says it has proposed tighter en-

vironmental safeguards for the funds in new regulations now under discussion by national governments. The proposed changes have been welcomed by Euro-MPs and conservationists alike.

The commission adds that the funds themselves play a vital role in helping backward areas comply with ever-tighter EC environmental legislation.

Publicly, many agree. "The cost of compliance in the poorer regions is extremely high, relatively higher than in the other countries," says Peter Brennan,

head of the Irish Employers' Federation's Brussels office and a keen supporter of the funds.

But privately, some EC officials say some damage may have to be done in the name of development since one cannot put stricter controls on poorer areas than on states which have already achieved prosperity.

Even if it means letting unspoiled countries spend EC cash putting motorways through green fields? "Well it's their money and it's their green fields," one EC official said.

"All our regional policy has to remain extraordinarily alert to the needs of the environment. There really is very little emphasis on environmental control."

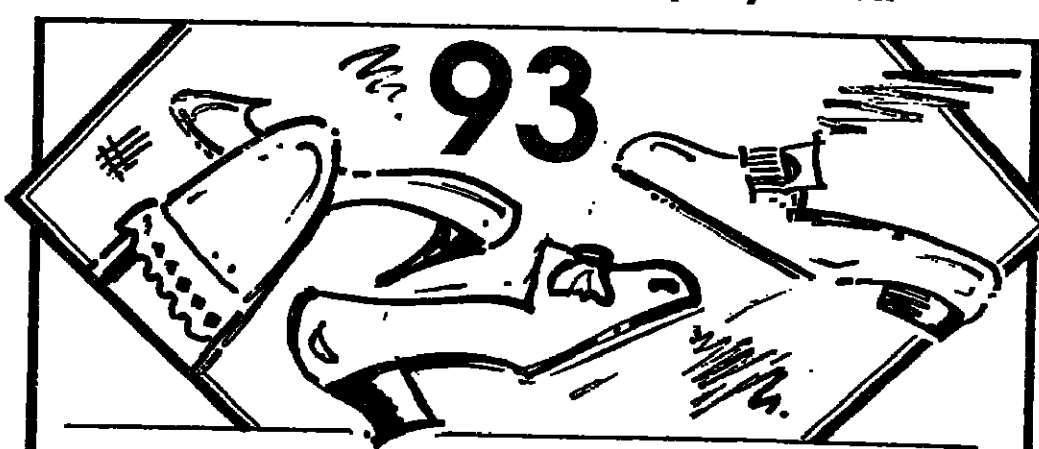
The scheme involves building an information centre and access roads on a vast site in the west of Ireland dotted with ancient forts, megalithic tombs and a rich variety of rare plants and animals which thrive on its limestone hills.

The Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice is due to rule this week on a move by the WWF and Irish ecology group An Taisce to quash the commission decision and cancel the EC cash.

Another controversial case hit the headlines last month when



The biggest collection of
Italian Shoes
For Women are on display from:



7th Circle, Abdullah Ghosheh Street,
Nasserdinn Hotel Institute - Opposite Shaaban Building



Clinton wins close victory in House on economic plan

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton won a breathingly close victory in the House of Representatives for his \$337 billion deficit-cutting bill Thursday, moving it forward to an even more difficult fight in the U.S. Senate.

"Tonight the House showed courage and conviction," Mr. Clinton declared soon after the 219-213 vote. "Tomorrow we go on to the Senate and we go back to the country. We have broken the gridlock."

The victory, achieved without the help of even one Republican, required days of arm-twisting by House leaders and dozens of presidential telephone calls to Democrats.

The win should provide a much-needed boost to the president, hit by criticism of his alleged indecision over Bosnia and by distracting flaps over a \$200 haircut and the firing of several White House travel office employees amid charges of cronyism.

"It is fair, it is responsible, it is effective, it is real," House Speaker Tom Foley, a Washington Democrat, said in urging Democrats to unite just before the House vote. "Support the president's plan."

But 38 House Democrats voted against their president anyway, fearful of supporting \$250 billion in net new taxes and \$87 billion in painful spending cuts.

Representative Newt Gingrich of Georgia, a leader of the House Republican minority, urged every member to "think of the country (and)...vote against bigger government, higher taxes, poorer families."

And Kentucky Republican Jim Bunning likened Mr. Clinton's tax bill to the president's haircut.

the much-publicized trim that eared Mr. Clinton a separate shearing from critics and analysts.

"It's a lot more expensive than it looks," Mr. Bunning said. The bill lifts the top personal income tax rate to 36 per cent from 34 per cent for American couples earning more than \$140,000 after all deductions, boosts the top corporate rate to 35 per cent and places new limits on deductions for executive pay.

It also increases the amount of social security benefits on which some recipients must pay taxes and creates enterprise zones designed to spur economic development in urban areas.

Although the measure includes \$115 billion in new taxes on the affluent, it also has a controversial and unpopular \$72 billion energy tax that many congressmen opposed.

It was only Mr. Clinton's promise to take another look at the tax that finally brought a critical number of southern and conservative Democrats on board at the 11th hour.

Some key Senate Democrats who sit on the tax-writing finance committee are demanding far more than a second look at the tax when the bill comes up there next month.

Senator David Boren, an Oklahoma Democrat, claims that a dozen Democrats are ready to vote against the plan in the Senate unless the BTU energy tax — so called because it taxes energy according to its heat content measured in British Thermal Units — is eliminated. That would kill the tax.

Whatever the precise numbers, Mr. Clinton will have to find ways to please a demanding and diverse set of senators if he is to win majority support in the Senate.

Auto giants announce dismal earnings

TOKYO (AP) — Nissan Motor Co., the world's fourth-largest automaker, said it lost 56 billion yen (\$519 million) last fiscal year, and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said its profits fell 12.5 per cent to 25.83 billion yen (\$239.17 million).

Both companies said the domestic auto market slump brutalized sales and the yen's rise whittled away income on exports. They said they expect these trends to continue until the fall.

A more expensive yen tends to make Japanese exports more costly and less competitive abroad.

Mitsubishi said its fiscal 1992 profits compared with 29.51 billion yen (\$273.24 million) the previous year. Earnings per share were 30.25 yen (\$0.28), compared the 34.56 yen (\$0.32) the previous year.

Mitsubishi said its sales of 3.18 trillion yen (\$29.44 billion) represented a three per cent increase from sales of 3.07 trillion (\$29 billion) in fiscal 1991.

Nissan Motor Co., the world's fourth-largest automaker, said its sales were 6.20 trillion yen (\$57.4 billion), down 3.4 per cent from 6.42 trillion yen (\$59.44 billion) the previous year.

It posted a net loss of 56 billion yen (\$518.52 million), compared to a 101.3 billion yen (\$937.96 million) profit the year before. Nissan lost 22.29 yen (\$0.21) per share, compared to earnings of 40.33 yen (\$0.37) per share in fiscal 1991.

Both companies said they will pay cash dividends of seven yen (\$0.06) per share.

Mitsubishi said a market recovery is likely during the second half of this year as record fiscal stimulus measures adopted by the government take effect. But during the first half market conditions will remain sluggish, without substantial recovery.

John Dobson, a market analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities said that according to Mitsubishi's predictions last year, the recovery should already be here.

"But according to recent figures, sales were already down 13.6 per cent in the first 15 days of May," he said. "Now they seem to have pushed their prediction for a recovery back six months."

He said sales might turn positive by December.

Dollar posts new closing low against yen

TOKYO (Agencies) — Despite dollar-buying efforts by the Bank of Japan, the U.S. dollar ended at another record low against the Japanese yen Friday after rising slightly from its lower opening, as prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange fell slightly.

The dollar closed at 107.38 yen, down 0.67 yen from Thursday's close, its lowest in Tokyo since modern currency exchange rates were established in the late 1940s.

It opened at its record at 107.18 yen, and ranged between 107.10 yen and 107.60 yen after closing overnight in New York at 107.30 yen.

Currency dealers said the dollar temporarily rose to the day's high on active dollar buying by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) around midday, but fell back toward the close.

"The dollar's downtrend couldn't be stopped by the intervention," said Akira Narumi, assistant general manager at Sakura Bank's foreign exchange division.

Mr. Narumi said that part of the BOJ's dollar-buying was on behalf of the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) for the trading during Tokyo time.

He said however, the market saw the Fed's cooperation as an action to stop the dollar's decline against the European currencies.

"Players' understanding is that if it's only the yen strengthening against the dollar, the Fed would not not cooperate, because we all know that the higher yen to combat the trade deficit," he said.

Dealers said the dollar recovered weakly on massive dollar buying by the BOJ and rumours of similar intervention in the Singapore foreign exchange market, but failed to break through resistance at 107.75 yen.

The dollar began its latest plunge Tuesday, reacting to a report by the U.S. Treasury Department to Congress that was interpreted as another endorsement of a higher yen as a way to fight the U.S. trade deficit.

A stronger yen makes Japanese products more expensive and less competitive overseas.

Senior currency traders said on Friday that central bank intervention by the United States Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan may backfire because it is delaying changes for the dollar to

hit a bottom against the yen.

The market's relentless drive in pushing the dollar to post-war lows against the yen may also mean a weaker dollar in the longer term because it could trigger a distorted capital outflow from U.S. markets, they said.

The dollar's weakness is also surfacing against other major currencies such as the mark, traders said.

"Monetary authorities must refrain from making comments on currencies in public," said a senior German bank trader.

He said such comments could influence a cross-border capital flow — a critical factor affecting currencies — by making investors anxious about the real intentions of various nations.

The foreign exchange market is influenced not only by actual trade data — which only have a minimal impact in moving the global currency market — but by capital flows.

"The current phase of the falling dollar, triggered by political tension between the U.S. and Japan, is now accompanied by money flowing out of U.S. markets," said Toshihiko Masaki, vice-president of Citibank N.A.

This implies that the dollar's

possible rebound in the future could be quite weak, he added.

"Foreign assets held by Japanese investment trusts, denominated in both dollars and European currencies, will keep declining throughout 1993 as long as the dollar is unable to confirm a major bottom against the yen," said Hideki Kamasaka, general manager at Nikko Securities Investment Trust and Management Co. Ltd.

Leading investors, nervous about currency risk, are shrinking their foreign asset portfolios in spite of the attractive capital and income gains U.S. capital markets now offer.

The BOJ has persistently bought dollars since April 2 when the dollar first breached 114 yen. The New York Federal Reserve Bank is estimated to have also bought a small amount of dollars on behalf of the U.S. Treasury in New York on April 27, May 27 and possibly in Tokyo Friday.

But those actions, combined with verbal attempts to prop up the dollar, have been unsatisfactory.

Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Friday that Japan and its allies, including the United States, have been taking

"appropriate, timely" action in the currency market. But his remarks offered little solace to the dollar.

Efforts by central banks to manipulate artificially the market make large firms, such as Japanese exporters, reluctant to sell the quantity of dollars warranted by their commercial demands, senior traders said.

At the same time, speculators are refraining from carrying large dollar-short positions, necessary for the market to hit a bottom, traders said.

The dollar has tumbled more than 14 per cent against the yen since February, mostly because of U.S. government officials' comments favouring a strong yen and weak U.S. fundamentals.

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers said Thursday that currency markets have moved "too far, too fast," and repeated that the United States does not seek a further yen rise.

In spite of such damage control, traders said the market was still convinced that the United States was trying to use the dollar/yen rate as a bargaining tool to achieve its ultimate goal — more efforts by Tokyo to spur growth and to import U.S. goods.

EC farm deal clears way for GATT advance

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) reached a dawn agreement on farm prices Thursday which could pave the way for a breakthrough in GATT trade talks.

The agreement gave farmers nearly one billion ECUs (\$1.2 billion) more in subsidies and was broadly welcomed in Europe.

France, which won concessions after three days of hard bargaining, now seems likely to accept an EC-U.S. agreement on oilseeds production, part of a wider bilateral farm trade accord aimed at breaking the deadlock in the GATT Uruguay Round.

A source close to French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said the agreement had created a climate that was "clearly more favourable" for France to accept the accord restricting the amount of land EC farmers can use to

grow oilseeds crops.

"We have achieved important and significant results," French Farm Minister Jean Pouch said at the end of what officials said had been long and heated discussions.

"The council expects this agreement will be adopted on June 8 (by EC foreign ministers)," Bjorn Westh, the Danish farm minister who chairs the EC sessions, told a news conference.

The main aid France squeezed out of the Community was an increase of 12 ECUs (\$14.4) a tonne in compensation for farmers who agree to stop growing food on some of their land under a Community scheme to slash the cereals surplus of nearly 32 million tonnes.

France also won better terms for dairy, wheat, sugar beet and sheep farmers.

But it lost its fight to allow farmers to take the same land out of production again after only three years instead of six under the so-called rotational set-aside scheme.

French farmers' reactions were mixed. A spokesman for the young farmers' union, CNJA, called the agreement a partial success but said the union was worried it would lead to a softening of France's position on the oilseeds issue.

The Permanent Assembly of Agriculture Chambers, a powerful farmers lobby group, was tougher. "The deal does not meet the expectations of farmers, who have grave worries concerning the oilseed deal and the global GATT talks," it said in statement.

But Foreign Minister Alain

Juppe said the results were very positive. "The farm minister has negotiated well and obtained a good agreement, which will allow us to progress, I believe, on other aspects of the (GATT) talks," he told a parliamentary committee.

Irish Farm Minister Joe Walsh called the agreement "a reasonable package given the difficult budgetary situation facing the Community."

He said he was particularly pleased that he had secured an increased milk quota for Ireland together with Community funding for restructuring measures.

Brussels farming analysts said the reform of the EC's common agricultural policy (CAP) aimed at cutting over-production was still intact, but France had set a dangerous precedent for changing it.

"CAP's been breached but it's not battered," one analyst said. Ministers agreed that if farmers wanted to get compensation for letting land permanently fallow, which benefits the environment more than rotating fields in and out of production, they would have to agree not to grow food on 20 per cent of their arable land.

Gulf Air raises \$100m to buy Boeings

MANAMA (R) — Gulf Air has said it had raised \$ 130 million from international banks to finance the purchase of two Boeing Co. 767-300ER aircraft.

A Gulf Air official said the loan would cover 80 per cent of the cost of the planes. Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi, had previously announced it had ordered four airliners from Boeing.

Gulf Air last Tuesday signed a \$ 307 million loan agreement in Paris to finance the purchase of eight new Airbus A320 planes, the official said.

AMAX, Cyprus minerals merging

CHARLESTON, West Virginia (AP) — Two coal companies have announced they will merge to form the United States' second largest coal company. AMAX Inc. of New York and Cyprus Minerals Co. of Englewood, Colorado, combined would produce 70 million tonnes of coal a year. The companies also would be the nation's second-largest copper producer, as well as having interests in aluminum, gold, lithium, iron ore, oil and gas. The combined company would have assets of \$5 billion and annual revenues of about \$2.8 billion. Cyprus Minerals says it currently mines 20 million tonnes of coal a year in Colorado, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming. AMAX is the nation's no. 3 coal producer with more than 40 million tonnes of production in Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Wyoming and West

Virginia. The nation's largest coal producer is Peabody Holding Co. of St. Louis, part of the London-based Hanson PLC, which produces about 93 million tonnes of coal a year. The merger would involve the exchange of half a share of Cyprus stock for each share of AMAX stock, the companies said. The deal also would include AMAX selling off part of its aluminum and gold interests to shareholders.

Russia's giant limousine maker goes to private hands

MOSCOW (R) — Russia marked a quiet revolution in its era of bold self-lofts Thursday with the transfer to private hands of most shares in the giant ZIL plant, maker of the sleek, black limousines once favoured by Soviet leaders.

To flashing cameras and applause from journalists at a ceremony at the State Property Fund in a quiet Moscow street, officials congratulated themselves on the successful sale to the public of 75 per cent of ZIL shares.

"This is a historic day," said Maxim Bolko, an adviser to Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Chubais. Mr. Chubais handles the privatisation portfolio, keystone of government reform policy.

only 25 per cent of the plant, of which 10 per cent is reserved for foreign investors.

ZIL's Soviet-era director Yevgeny Brakov, a burly, square-jawed Russian backed by the former Communist Party in his failed competition with President Boris Yeltsin in 1989 elections, refused to speak to reporters.

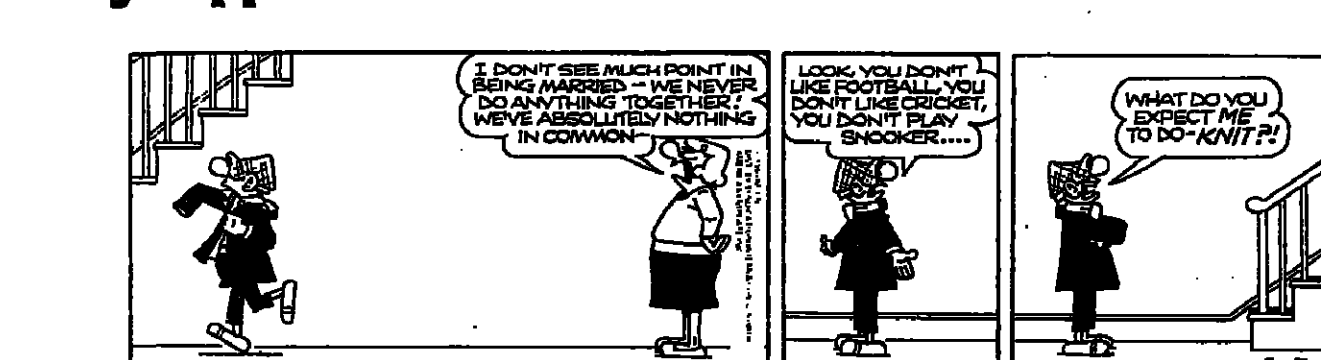
But posing for cameramen in front of five thick volumes of files containing the names of registered shareholders, he said: "Those who have bought shares in our plant will not regret it."

The sale of Zavod Imeni Likhacheva (ZIL) is a slap in the face for conservatives in Russia's parliament.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"Anxiety didn't interfere with my sleep last night. Now I've got 8 hours of worrying to catch up!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROGOM
MYOFA
UNCANE
SELING

WHAT HER EARNINGS OFTEN DON'T KEEP UP WITH.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HER

Yesterday's Jumbles: CARGO KNIFE PEPTIC KITTEN
Answer: A man whose work requires him to grasp things quickly — A PICKPOCKET

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 29, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You would be well advised to stick to the principles and precepts you have found suitable to your advancement and growth. This is not time to switch a middle course to try to achieve a solution.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can solve a private anxiety well and to your benefit early after which make sure that you do not burden yourself with limitations for now or the future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact acquaintances for any important project early in the day for later you find them too preoccupied with their own affairs or unwilling to help.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you have some outside matter to attend to get up and get it done after breakfast as the rest of the day finds lack of protection for you in public.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you have matters that need some scope to them, get them out of the way early for later matters at a distance can be difficult to do.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Joint with one you love early in mutual interest but later steer clear of such since you have other activities requiring your attention that must be done.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can early reach a new agreement with one important in your scheme of things but then put efforts in other directions, don't make deals.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Brighten your surroundings as best you can early in the day, then drop and go on to other matters of a routine nature requiring your attention.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you want to make engagements for pleasures or have a good time, the morning is best for such since later too much expensive or trouble is involved.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get your home in perfect working order and efficient in the morning for later some tense conditions can arise that take your attention away from fixing dwelling.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A communication to another should be early in the day for any good intermittent results, then attend to your own knitting, avoid arguments.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You see ways to make your property more valuable early, then drop this interest until it naturally arises again and avoid any heavy commitment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Do whatever is vital to your personal happiness early in the day, then you would be wise to coast along with conditions and persons about you.

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel

ACROSS
1 Thesis
6 Riyadh native
10 Friendly rival
14 Responded to
15 Pompeii cover
16 Film composer
17 Visiting patients
20 Tenants
21 "Ballet
Rahersar"
22 Hockey name
23 To's opposite
24 Stir up
25 Legitimate
34 Call
35 Kachina
36 Mad, soft, subj.
37 Wild swing
40 Threat word
41 "of the
Thousand
Days"
42 Light blue
43 Moved back and
forth
45 Sessmologist's
concern
46 French article
47 Shell-game
need
48 Cradly
52 Currency tool
56 Airline purchase
60 Loosen
61 "Kiss Me"
62 Ancient Nile
63 "New Kids on
the Block" fan
64 Humdinger
65 Painter Max

DOWN
1 Flat cap
2 Nuncupative
3 Pig's sack
4 Egyptian
goddess
5 Bowdlerized
6 Make charges
7 Scolding cheers
8 "— Marie"
9 Ingot
10 Hint
12 He played
Hawkeye
13 Prepare salad
18 "Pretty Woman"
star
19 Skunk
20 emanation
23 Counterfeit
24 Stir up
25 "— mot le
deluge"
26 Wild dog
27 Mighty or Minnie
28 Founder of
historical
criticism
29 Located
30 Sandage
31 Per — (yearly)
32 Large: pret.
33 Anesthetic
35 Recipient
38 Actress Goldie
39 Blissful abode
44 "— Lang Syne"
45 Bivouac sight
46 Very dry
48 Super
50 Art work
51 Shortly
52 Chewy
53 Surgery
remover
54 Consanguin-
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55 Damppens
57 Fum ending
58 Hurled
59 Asian holiday

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:
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ACHES MOORS BOO
PILGRIMAGES THE
TENTATIVE PASS SENT
PORTAL ASSURE
EPI NOU REIRE
DONORIDGE
GENDERED REDDORR
EMOTE DONORIAL
VARIUS ORR TED
GATS DONORRUES
ALL DONORRORR
QUO PREAD RINGED
SEN REARS NADE

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/05/1993 - 24/05/1993)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME

TRADING VOLUME

PREV. CLOSING PRICE

NEW OPENING PRICE

CLOSING PRICE

AMMAN NATIONAL BANK

AMMAN NATIONAL BANK

AMMAN NATIONAL BANK

AMMAN NATIONAL BANK

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Banks in UAE forced to clarify interest rates

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has said it would require its banks to display the way they charge interest and impose other restrictions on personal loans similar to requirements in the West.

The central bank rules, intended to rationalise lending and enhance competition among the UAE's 46 banks, were postponed from April 1 to June 1 at the request of the Emirates Banks Association.

Abdullah Al Ghurair, president of the group of 14 national banks and 18 foreign banks, told reporters in Dubai that UAE banks would adhere to the ruling but needed a grace period to study it.

But the central bank said the rule takes effect next week.

"There is a regulatory vacuum in this area of banking facilities,"

the central bank said in a statement. "It is in line with a general policy of the bank aimed at rationalising bank credit policies."

The central bank is requiring banks to publish real interest rates as opposed to percentages. They can set their own rates but must show how they will be levied. The rules prohibit banks from using the flat rate to calculate interest, which expresses the interest rate as if over a period of 12-months. Such calculations make the interest appear lower than it is.

Some banks charge interest up front on a loan. Others charge interest quarterly or on a half-year basis. Bankers said the new rules were similar to Britain's annual percentage rate.

The rules also limit personal

loans to 250,000 dirhams (\$68,000) and prevents using houses as collateral.

The central bank said they were intended to ensure clients' salaries are proportionate to monthly installments.

"Competition between banks... made it possible for a large number of borrowers of all ages and nationalities to obtain such loans and utilise the funds for luxury purposes and undermine the concept of saving," it said.

"Lending in this country has gone to seed," one banker said. UAE central bank chairman Mohammad Al Meraikhi in a policy statement last June urged banks to ensure good clients and restrict lending.

The central bank has been tightening control over the banking sector since then.

This week it said "intervention of the monetary authorities" was needed to stop a wave of dud cheques. As of July 1 UAE banks will be required to report 10 per cent shareholders equity to assets ratios.

Jordan's economy still losing from Gulf war

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan has said that a sharp drop in Iraqi transit trade since the 1990 Gulf crisis had caused losses of more than 347 million dinars (\$505 million) to its economy.

"Certainly we are still suffering from the Gulf crisis, and chiefly from the loss in transit goods (through the Red Sea port of Aqaba)," Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat said in an interview.

Sweeping U.N. trade sanctions imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait and a plummeting Iraqi dinar have slashed Baghdad's imports through Jordan, traditionally its biggest trading partner.

A three-year-long Western inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels under the embargo has deterred shippers, raised transport and insurance costs and diverted millions of dollars in business to Iran, Turkey and Syria, a Jordanian official said.

But the biggest impact has come from the declining Iraqi dinar and Baghdad's shortage of hard currency, which has sharply eroded its purchasing power, traders say.

Before the Gulf crisis up to 60 per cent of the business going through Aqaba was Iraqi-related compared to about 40 per cent now, transport ministry officials said.

Mr. Suheimat said Jordan's gross national product (GNP) had lost 277.1 million dinars (\$404 million) between August 1990 and the end of 1992 due to an 11.82 million tonne drop in transit imports for Iraq.

A further loss of 69.6 million dinars (\$101 million) was incurred over the same period through an average 1.15 million tonne decline in annual transit exports.

Most of the loss was from Iraq with the remainder due to the closure of key Arab Gulf markets as punishment for Jordan's pro-Baghdad stance during the 1991 Gulf war.

The calculation is based on

each tonne of cargo handled through Aqaba generating 25 dinars (\$36) in GNP through Port Authority fees and related payment to clearing, insurance and transport firms.

Mr. Suheimat said 25 of the 41 shipping lines which traditionally served Jordan stopped coming to Aqaba since the crisis because of higher insurance fees, disrupting the flow of Jordanian imports and exports and eroding Aqaba's position as a key port.

He said many of Jordan's 18,000 trucks, most of them privately-owned, were now operating at minimum capacity.

Mr. Suheimat said he believed Jordan would still be a main conduit for Iraqi trade once U.N. sanctions were lifted even though Iraqi officials say their country's refurbished Gulf ports of Umm Qasr and Khor Zubair could handle most of Iraq's needs.

Iraq said last month it had cleared debris around the two ports from its 1980-1988 war with Iran.

Drought cuts Morocco's GDP by three per cent

RABAT (R) — Morocco's gross domestic product (GDP) shrank three per cent last year mainly due to drought that cut agriculture's share of GDP from 21 to 15 per cent, the government's statistics department has said.

In a report based on provisional data for economic performance for most of 1992 it said: "In real terms GDP registered a decline of about three per cent in 1992." It gave a detailed figures.

After a second consecutive drought this season, officials have

predicted GDP will decline further in 1993 and the trade gap will widen because of the need to import millions of tonnes of cereals.

"The 1991-92 agricultural season is considered one of the worst in the last 10 years. Weather conditions were severe and prevented farmers reaping good harvests, either for early or late crops," the report said.

It said the last cereal harvest was "very poor" with a total of 2.94 million tonnes.

Iran boasts 7.7% annual growth

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has said its economy grew on average 7.7 per cent annually in the past four years, led by 16.6 per cent growth in the utilities sector.

Vice-President Hassan Habibi released a series of bright economic figures in a move apparently designed to offset press criticism of the government's economic record before presidential elections on June 11.

Speaking on Iranian television, he said the economy grew an average 7.7 per cent year in the past four Iranian calendar years which end on March 20.

Mr. Habibi said the water, electricity and gas sector led the growth with 16.6 per cent, followed by industries which grew by 12.7 per cent, oil sector by 9.3

per cent and agriculture by 5.8 per cent.

Central bank governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli said last week Iran's gross domestic product grew at just over 8.1 per cent a year during the period.

There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

The base year in Mr. Habibi's report, ending March 20, 1989 is

the one in which the eight-year Iran-Iraq war ended. President

Abkar Hashemi Rafsanjani, widely expected to win a second term, took office in August 1989.

Many papers blame Mr. Rafsanjani's free-market economic reforms for rising prices especially after devaluation of the rial by up to 95 per cent in March.

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Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 27/5/1993

Currency

Bid

Offer

U.S. Dollar

0.6640

0.6660

Sterling Pound

1.0640

1.0695

Deutsche Mark

0.4214

0.4235

Swiss Franc

0.4716

0.4742

French Franc

0.1251

0.1257

Japanese Yen*

0.6323

0.6355

Dutch Guilder

0.3763

0.3782

Swedish Krona

0.0941

0.0946

Italian Lira*

0.0463

0.0466

Belgian Franc

0.02055

0.02065

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 27/5/1993

Currency

Bid

Offer

Bahraini Dinar

1.7920

1.8240

Lebanese Lira*

0.03645

0.04055

Saudi Riyal

0.1820

0.1843

Kuwaiti Dinar

2.2250

2.2775

Qatari Riyal

0.18536

0.18640

Egyptian Pound

0.1950

0.2100

Omani Riyal

1.7440

1.7830

UAE Dirham

0.18536

0.18640

Greek Drachma*

0.3067

0.3367

Cypriot Pound

1.4090

1.4390

* Per 100

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Problems are foreseen after Cambodia poll results announced

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodians voted on the last day of U.N.-organised elections Friday and unfounded fears of serious poll violence gave way to worries of more war when leaders try to form a new government.

If the Royalist opposition wins a clear victory, diplomats and U.N. officials doubt the current Phnom Penh administration will be willing to make a graceful exit, even though it has pledged to respect the results.

If the government wins a clear majority — 66 per cent or more of the vote — the renegade Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction, which backed out the peace agreement it signed with the other warring factions and boycotted the polls, has threatened war.

If the result is split, the Royalists and the government may be forced into coalition in the 120-seat assembly. Bitter rivals during 13 years of civil war, they must now find some way of working together.

The two groups disagree fundamentally over whether to try and keep the Khmer Rouge in the political fold. The Royalists say they should be included in the interest of national reconciliation; the current government won't hear of it.

As of Friday morning, more than 86 per cent of the 4.7 million

registered voters had cast their ballots. The U.N. peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi has called the massive turnout a "stinging rebuke to the men of violence."

First results are expected Saturday and final figures by the middle of next week, after which the assembly is expected to convene quickly.

The 22,000-strong U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is mandated to stay in the country for three months after the assembly convenes while it drafts and approves a new constitution before forming a new government.

Until then, the existing government will remain in place along with the Supreme National Council, which originally had members of all factions and which is the formal sovereign power in Cambodia.

The council, now minus the Khmer Rouge, is due to meet Saturday to discuss the mechanics of the transition. At the meeting Mr. Akashi will announce whether he will certify the elections as free and fair.

The National Assembly would have no decision-making powers until a constitution is completed but would have moral authority, the deputy head of UNTAC, Behrooz Sadry, told Reuters. He

said UNTAC was considering forming a new body involving assembly members to ensure the SNC not go against their will.

A wild card in the calculations should the Royalists win is the government army, which with some 50,000 regular troops and 145,000 militia and police, is by far the strongest of the factional forces.

Some U.N. analysts say political and military interests have become inextricably intertwined in the 14 years the government has been in power.

This raises doubts among U.N. officials and opposition members as to whether the armed forces will be willing simply to transfer their allegiance to new political masters.

Mr. Saery said the army relied on the central leadership to resolve problems of paying soldiers, discipline and providing cohesion.

He said the U.N. might maintain a presence in Cambodia after UNTAC's mandate expires to assist a new government in training its armed forces, police and civil service.

"But I don't think a substantial presence of military and police is on the cards."

A crucial task for the new government is dealing with the

Khmer Rouge guerrillas, who have up to 15,000 men roaming wide areas of the countryside.

The Khmer Rouge are bitter enemies of the government installed after Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to end the guerrillas' revolutionary rule, which killed a million people.

The Khmer Rouge boycotted the election, which they said would only legitimise a "puppet" government. But they abandoned threats to disrupt it and instead sent people in their zones to vote, apparently for the Royalist Party.

A Khmer Rouge military official told Reuters near the Thai border Thursday that members were voting in defiance of the faction's notorious leader Pol Pot.

A U.N. spokesman said the country was quiet overnight apart from three shelling incidents. In one incident, three rockets were fired at a Royalist Party office in the northwestern province of Battambang, injuring one member.

In an illustration of the Khmer Rouge change of tactics, some 500 of its members staged a peaceful protest in the Sok Sam district of Battambang.

The spokesman said the group, protesting against UNTAC and the elections, was unarmed and dispersed after 30 minutes.



Workers remove paintings from the Uffizi Gallery after a car bomb exploded Thursday killing six people and damaging priceless art works at the gallery and nearby historic buildings (AFP photo)

Italian Police release drawing of Uffizi Gallery bomb suspect

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — Police hunted Friday for a youth seen running away from a narrow alley where a huge bomb exploded, killing five people and wrecking part of Italy's most famous art gallery.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing the tall, sun-tanned man jumping into a small car which reversed out of a nearby street at great speed in a screech of tyres. The youth, said to be in his twenties, was carrying a white bag.

Thursday's explosion, said to have been caused by over 100 kilos of explosives planted in a stolen van parked behind Florence's Uffizi Gallery, killed at least five people and injured 50 others, including two German tourists.

Italy's RAI-1 state television said Friday that rescuers were still looking for the body of a possible sixth victim.

A police drawing of the suspect showed a youth with dark, short-cropped hair, high cheekbones, a long straight nose and a narrow eyes. Investigators are checking it against photokits assembled after a recent suspected mafia bombing in Rome.

The man was first spotted near the van in which the bomb was hidden and aroused suspicion because of the speed with which he

escaped from the scene. On May 14, a bomb destroyed a Rome block of flats, injuring 23 people.

According to Italy's Interior Minister, Nicola Mancino, the Florence bombing was a mafia terrorist attack aimed at forcing the state to ease pressure on cosa nostra's home base in the Sicilian capital, Palermo.

The explosion blew out all the windows of the Uffizi and severely damaged the structure of the museum, which houses the world's largest collection of Italian Renaissance art and draws a million visitors a year.

At least four paintings were completely destroyed by the thousands of glass shards propelled against the canvases, but some of the world's greatest masterpieces were saved by their plexiglass anti-vandal shields.

The works of art that survived thanks to the controversial shields included Michelangelo's Tondo Doni, the large medallion representing the holy family hanging in the museum's west wing, the one that took the full impact of the blast.

"The damage is serious, but nothing like as bad as it might have been," said Anna Maria Pericoli Tofani, director of the 400-year-old gallery. "If it had not been for the protective

shields, we would be standing in a huge cemetery today."

Italian newspapers Friday said Masterpieces close to the scene of the blast, including Raphael's Madonna With Goldfinch and Titian's Flora and Venus Of Urbino — were spared because they were hanging in rooms without windows.

An "emergency ward" has been set up in a room dominated by Leonardo Da Vinci's Adoration Of The Magi. The paintings damaged include the Death Of Adonis by Michelangelo's Venetian follower Sebastiano Del Piombo, which has suffered eight cuts.

The biggest gash is three metres (nine feet) long, but experts believe it can be restored. Other damaged works include Rubens' Henry IV of France entering Paris and his picture of the same king at the Battle of Ivry.

Van Dyck's great equestrian portrait of the Emperor Charles V, which also hung in the west wing's Rubens Room, was only slightly damaged. In all, some 20 paintings were damaged.

A painting of the Madonna by the Italian Renaissance master Giotto, finished in 1300, was cut when the windows of the church in which it was hanging near the Uffizi were blown in.

Bonn parliament approves new asylum law

BONN, German (Agencies) — Parliament gave final approval Friday to a law that closes Germany's borders to most asylum-seekers, scrapping one of the world's most liberal refugee policies.

The vote by the upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat, clears the way for the legislation to become law on July 1. The lower house approved the measure Wednesday.

Speakers in the Bundesrat said the new law comes just in time. Germany is already troubled by neo-Nazi violence, and one Bundesrat deputy said the outrages would multiply if politicians didn't get the refugee influx under control.

"A lesson from the (1933) Nazi takeover is never drive the small people into the arms of right-wing extremists," Hamburg Mayor Hennig Vorschauer told the Bundesrat.

In the Bundesrat roll call, 12 of Germany's 16 states approved the new law, two voted against it, and two abstained.

Germany's postwar policy, adopted in atonement for Nazi sins, had allowed all foreigners to apply for asylum.

The new law would let immigration authorities turn away all asylum-seekers who arrive from neighbouring countries, and most who arrive at seaports or airports, unless they can prove they came from countries at war or run by dictators.

Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said Thursday that her agency fears that Poland and the Czech Republic will be swamped by refugees cast out by Germany.

According to the German government, 161,320 foreigners sought asylum in the first four months of this year — a 30 per cent jump from the same period last year.

A record 438,000 foreigners applied for asylum last year, more than in any other European country.

German legislators see the massive foreigner influx as a drain on the country's economy, and say it fuels neo-Nazi violence against asylum-seekers.

"No issue in German politics stirs as the way changing the asylum law has," said Herbert Schnoor, interior minister for North Rhine-Westphalia state.

But Mr. Schnoor said xenophobic tensions are a "growing threat to our internal peace" and he saw no choice but to vote for the measure.

Meanwhile Germany's Supreme Court overturned Friday a hard-fought abortion reform law, saying the compromise between old east and west German laws violated constitutional guarantees respecting life.

But the constitutional court, ruling on a 1992 law meant to merge the restrictive western and liberal eastern approaches.

In practice, this fine legal distinction allows abortions in the first three months of pregnancy. However, to show official disapproval of the operation, it bars health plans from paying for the operation or state hospitals from performing them.

Major under pressure despite cabinet reshuffle

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major faced new pressures Friday to rebuild confidence in his government despite the firing of his controversial and unpopular finance minister.

Colleagues and commentators said that in sacrificing Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont, Mr. Major had turned a close friend into an enemy and removed a foil for criticism.

"The removal of a chancellor is always a dangerous thing...the prime minister is now unprotected from his past," the Times newspaper said in an editorial.

Financial markets, too, showed there would be no honeymoon for the man named by Mr. Major Thursday to be chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, who makes no secret of his ambition to replace his boss eventually as prime minister.

Sterling fell Friday morning — down almost one penny against a 2.49 marks after a 1.5 penny fall Thursday. The London Stock Exchange edged lower as it assessed the reshuffle.

Mr. Lamont had been a lightning conductor for Mr. Major. He followed Mr. Major as chancellor when Margaret Thatcher was toppled in November 1990, inheriting an economic downturn which turned into the longest recession in 60 years.

Now, the focus is on Mr. Major.

The Conservatives have been in disarray since winning a fourth election in a row a year ago. The recession and disunity over Europe have eroded confidence in the Major administration.

An opinion poll published Friday gave the party its worst rating in 12 years and said Mr. Major was the least popular post-war premier.

Mr. Major made no comment on the reshuffle before going to Paris Thursday night.

Trade and Industry Secretary Michael Heseltine said Mr. Ma-

ior had been unable to resist the clamour for his finance minister to go after the bitter two-year recession.

"The pressure had built up, the speculation was feverish and the body politic wanted a scapegoat," Mr. Heseltine said.

Mr. Lamont had taken brave but ultimately unpopular decisions to cut inflation and get Britain through recession, he added.

"We are at the point where one is seeing recovery," he said. "He will feel bitter that he didn't get a chance to reap the benefits of that, but politics is a ruthless business."

Just how ruthless was clear in the Lamont removal.

Mr. Major offered Mr. Lamont the more junior post of environment secretary, knowing he would never take it.

Mr. Lamont was bitter, eschewing the traditional resignation letter and message of support in favour of a barbed facsimile.

"I have always been willing to be judged on my record," he said. "I believe that the success of the policies I have put in place will become increasingly clear with the passage of time."

Mr. Lamont said he would be making no comment for some time. But some colleagues fear he may become a loose cannon on the Conservative backbench, bitter in defeat and sniping at Mr. Major.

He could be particularly troublesome over European Community union which has torn the Conservatives apart over the past year.

"The reshuffle...contains dangers for John Major," former Conservative Party minister and Chairman Ken Baker wrote in the right-wing Daily Mail. "By losing Norman Lamont he has lost the main buffer absorbing the impact of criticism."

Polish government falls

WARSAW (AP) — The government of Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka failed a non-confidence vote Friday and became the fifth administration to fall since the Communists were toppled in 1989.

Ms. Suchocka looked stunned as the vote was tallied — 223 in favour of the non-confidence motion, the absolute minimum needed to bring down the government. One government backer who was too late for the vote could have made the difference.

The non-confidence vote was brought by deputies from the Solidarity Trade Union, which helped bring her government to power but now contends the economic reforms have hurt too much.

Solidarity had threatened a nationwide general strike if the non-confidence motion failed.

There were 445 of the 460 members present in the Sejm, the powerful lower house, for the vote and a simple majority was needed to oust the government. There were 198 votes supporting the government, and 24 abstentions.

No leading candidate for prime minister has emerged, nor has any realistic alternative to Ms. Suchocka's tough plan for salvaging the old Socialist economy by creating a free market and refusing to print money without backing for pay raises and social benefits.

Ms. Suchocka called it irresponsible to oust her when there was no one ready to step in. She said crucial elements of the eco-

nomic transformation, including help for those suffering most, will be delayed, and foreign aid and investment discouraged.

"There is no concept for forming a new government, and the work started by this government has been interrupted," she said.

She warned it will be tough to find a consensus in a parliament where 20-odd small parties are jousting for power. Ultimately, President Lech Walesa could dissolve the parliament and call early elections.

If no new prime minister surfaced from the current parliament session ending Saturday, then the choice will likely fall to Mr. Walesa. He might give Ms. Suchocka the chance to form another government.

Ms. Suchocka tendered her resignation to President Walesa Friday after the government lost a non-confidence vote in parliament, the Polish News Agency (PAP) reported.

"In accordance with the constitution, Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka submitted her resignation to President Lech Walesa," Zdzislaw Milewski, Ms. Suchocka's press secretary, told reporters.

"I have a solution for every situation," Mr. Walesa said leaving parliament. Asked what it was, he answered: "Always a better one."

Mr. Walesa went into a meeting with Ms. Suchocka and her cabinet. Meanwhile, the parliament took a recess, and political leaders huddled for emergency negotiations.

S. Africa democracy talks resume

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's democracy negotiations to end white minority rule resumed Friday after the government agreed to release three black leaders arrested in a police swoop.

The black radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) took its seat at the talks after the government promise to free three members of its National Executive Council (NEC).

The PAC agreed in return to review its commitment to armed struggle and violence while taking part in the multi-party democracy talks.

The PAC had threatened to boycott the talks after police arrested 75 members of the organisation in a nation-wide swoop Wednesday. Police said 28 remained in detention Friday.

Government and PAC negotiators held crisis talks early Friday ahead of the full democracy session.

PAC foreign secretary Gora Ebrahim told reporters the government had agreed to release three detained NEC members, formally charge another PAC leader and give details on the other detainees at a bilateral meeting Tuesday.

The government has condemned the PAC for its continued commitment to armed struggle while participating in the democracy negotiations. It has accused the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), of recent attacks on whites.

NEW YORK (R) — Former presidential candidate Ross Perot intensified his blitz against President Bill Clinton, appearing on three television shows to accuse the president of botching the presidency.

Giving equal time to slamming Mr. Clinton's lack of experience for the job pitching his own plan for the North American free trade agreement, Mr. Perot appeared on today, Donahue and in an in-depth interview with CNN.

Late Thursday ABC News reported that if Mr. Perot and Mr. Clinton were in a contest for the presidency today, they would be running about neck-and-neck.

Two days earlier, the straight-speaking Texas billionaire was interviewed by David Frost and said Mr. Clinton didn't deserve a job any higher than middle management.

The remark drew widespread media attention and sparked a flurry of criticism of the former presidential candidate who garnered 19 per cent of the vote in 1992.

By midday Thursday after several interviews, Mr. Perot was backing off the remark.

"I didn't call him a starstruck middle management type. I said those words in different places," he said during a taping of Donahue set to air Friday. "Can he get organised? Yes. Is he bright enough? Yes."

Mr. Perot nonetheless gave the president a short jab. "I didn't say that I wouldn't promote him. I would bring him in, train him and promote him. He might be running things 15 to 20 years from now."

Mr. Perot told Reuters that he made the comments because he

Seoul riot police battle students

SEOUL (AP) — Riot police firing tear gas battled more than 2,500 students Friday to block a march on the homes of two former presidents.

It was the second day of violence near the homes of former presidents Roh Tae-Woo and Chun Doo-Hwan in western Seoul. Dissidents say Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh ordered the bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy protests in 1980.

In eastern Seoul, about 40,000 students held an overnight rally Friday to form a new nationwide radical campus alliance. They vowed street protests to demand the punishment of the two ex-presidents.

Dissidents and militant students have demanded the two ex-presidents be held accountable for the 1980 bloodshed that left about 200 people killed in the

southern city of Kwangju.

"Let's punish Chun and Roh," students shouted as they wielded steel pipes to break through about 1,500 riot troops several blocks from the homes of two former presidents.

Police used volleys of tear gas and truncheons to repel a wave of attacks that lasted for three hours.

At least 30 students and police were injured, bringing the total injured in 10 days of protests to at least 250 people. There was no immediate report of arrests.

Clouds of tear gas wafted over western Seoul. Shops closed and pedestrians rushed for cover. Traffic at nearby Yonsei University came to a halt as thousands more students staged a sit-down on a main boulevard.

Students contend Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh ordered soldiers to fire on civilian protesters as top

army commanders after seizing power in a coup. Mr. Roh succeeded Mr. Chun in 1988 as president.

Public demands for the investigation of wrongdoing by the two former presidents grew after President Kim Young-Sam took office in February as South Korea's first civilian president in three decades.

Mr. Kim, a former dissident and victim of past military-dominated governments, has pushed a reform drive to end the authoritarian legacy of his predecessors.

In Mr. Kim's three-month-old campaign, about 1,000 government officials, educators and business leaders have been arrested or purged. Those arrested included a dozen legislators and government officials who were supporters of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh.

Perot slams Clinton with media blitz

was worried about Mr. Clinton's disorganisation.

"Things are midflight that will be destructive if they're passed into law," he said.

"I had hoped they would put together better plans, but now that you see the plan...if you look at the damage, we feel an obligation to run up a red flare and say, 'let's be sure this is the right thing for the country,'" he added.

On one programme, Mr. Perot criticised most harshly for approaching his deficit reduction plan and the revamping of the health care system in such a disorganised fashion.

"When you're four trillion in debt, you cannot afford to make mistakes of the magnitude that they are pushing for now," Mr. Perot said.

The ABC network, in a new poll conducted for its Nightline programme, found Mr. Clinton drawing 45 per cent of the vote and Mr. Perot 44 per cent in a hypothetical presidential election, yielding a statistical dead heat.

However, Americans appeared to be strongly divided over the Texas billionaire's fitness to be president.

The survey found that while 53 per cent of Americans said Mr. Perot lacked the kind of personality and temperament to be an effective president, 43 per cent said the opposite.

Similarly, 50 per cent said they considered him qualified to be president while 48 per cent said they did not, and 50 per cent said they like Mr. Perot more they heard about him, while 42 per cent said they liked him less.

The nighttime poll queried 1,055 adults last Thursday

through Sunday. The poll has a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points, meaning that actual results could vary by that much in either direction.

Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton, hoping to restore his battered public image, defended his presidency Thursday and asked television executives to portray him "as I am" and not as a "clay figure...all pulled out of shape."

Mr. Clinton, reeling from negative publicity over a \$200 haircut and the controversy over dumping the White House travel office staff, said he prays each day that "I won't make any stupid little mistakes."

"If you try doing a lot of things you're to make some mistakes," Mr. Clinton told executives attending a meeting of CBS Television network affiliates.

"I'm going to admit my mistakes," he told the group, which was meeting in New York. "What I want to do is have the kind of relationship with you and others that will present me as I am to the American people and not as some sort of clay figure that's all pulled out of shape."

Mr. Clinton's comments followed a two-hour live broadcast from the White House in which he answered questions from an audience of 200 people assembled for a morning news programme.

In the first four months of his presidency, Mr. Clinton has seen his popularity plunge to record lows for such a brief tenure — with recent public opinion polls showing more Americans disapprove of him than are satisfied.

In a separate development, the battle between the so-called "airheads" of Hollywood and the intellectual "eggheads" of the

east coast is picking up steam as both sides throw barbs at each other over President Clinton's show business friends.

East coast writers and others have been sniping at Hollywood for what appears to be its increasing influence on the president, who has been dogged by the furor surrounding television producer Harry Thomason's reluctant role in "travelgate," the White House travel office imbroglio.

Now the battle between the east and west coasts is heating up afresh.

"The idea that these insulated and bubble-headed people should help make policy is ridiculous," said Leon Wieseltier, the cultural editor of the New Republic magazine, in an interview with the New York Times.

"Hollywood actors are even more out of touch than elected politicians. In Hollywood, politics is another way of dressing and talking," he added.

Warning, to his theme, Mr. Wieseltier noted that movie making and politics did have certain similarities.

"They're highly scripted, poorly directed and always over budget," he said.

A top Hollywood executive, in an interview with Reuters, dismissed such sentiments as "regional chauvinism."

The executive, who asked not to be named, said, "many of the statements that are made expose the regional chauvinism by dismissing people out here out of hand as airheads and idiots, which are some of the lines that have been used by respected east coast writers in the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal."

Britain's Miss Whiplash declared bankrupt

LONDON (R) — Britain's best known prostitute was declared bankrupt Wednesday for failing to pay taxes of more than £350,000. But she defiantly told the government it wouldn't get a penny. Linda St. Clair, who calls herself "Miss Whiplash," said reporters she spent all her money on a world cruise, travel and image charge, "I was the lot," she said. "They are not getting a penny out of me," Ms. St. Clair, 41, disappeared from Britain under mysterious circumstances in January. A police hunt was launched when her regular car was found at Beach Head, a notorious cliff-top seaside spot near the southern town of Brighton.

She surfaced in New Zealand a month later and denied she had faked suicide and fled Britain to avoid a large tax bill. Ms. St. Clair said then that two "heavies" had threatened to kill her on the morning of her disappearance — a day after she promised to publish names of members of parliament, judges and other prominent figures from a "dirty file" of famous clients.

Actress Kim Basinger is facing bankruptcy.

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Kim Basinger, who was recently ordered to pay a production company nearly \$7.2 million after backing out of a film she filed for bankruptcy, her attorney said. Howard Wetzman said the filing, lodged in bankruptcy court, was intended to allow Ms. Basinger to appeal against the award against her. Had she not filed, she would have had to post an \$11.1 million bond, Mr. Wetzman said. Under the U.S. bankruptcy code, Ms. Basinger's assets have been frozen.

Theatre director is not a bitch — official.

BRUSSELS (R) — Boris, an eight-year-old castrated basset dog, will be named director of a Belgian theatre company, its scriptwriter said. Bert Verhoye of the Bink Comedy Company said Boris would be perfect for the job. "He can sit up right, lick the minister. He can also bark at the staff and chase away job applicants who annoy us," Mr. Verhoye told Reuters by telephone. It even helped being castrated, he added without elaborating. Boris was nominated as a protest against a new law forcing theatre companies to have a director.

Jailed prostitute walks free.

LONDON (R) — An appeal court has quashed a 14-day prison sentence imposed on a man who wolf-whistled at a female juror. Paul Powell

World Cup qualifying matches

Iraq crushes Pakistan 8-0

IRAQ FRIDAY hammered Pakistan 8-0 to take the lead in the Asian Group A qualification tournament for the 1994 World Cup.

The Iraqi team totally dominated the match as did not allow their Pakistani opponents to even approach goalie Imad Hashem.

Laith Hussein scored the first goal in the 11th minutes followed seven minutes later by the second goal by Sa'ad Qais. Ala' Kazem converted a 26th minute free kick to a header scoring the third goal, and captain Ahmad Radi scored the fourth goal in the 44th minute ending the first half 4-0.

The inexperienced Pakistani team, suffering their third crushing defeat of the competition after losing 5-0 to China and 5-1 to Yemen earlier in the week, allowed Iraq to score four more goals in the second half.

Qais scored his second and his team's fifth goal in the 69th

minute. Ala' Kazem scored his 4th goal of the tournament in the 75th minute, followed two minutes later by the seventh

goal by Munzer Khalaf. Naem Saddam netted the final goal two minutes before the end of the match.

Standings after Friday's first match

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	3	2	1	—	15	2	5
China	2	2	—	—	8	—	4
Yemen	3	1	1	1	7	8	3
Jordan	3	—	2	1	2	5	2
Pakistan	3	—	—	3	1	18	0

Teams:

Iraq: Imad Hashem, Radi Shneishel, Ahmad Radi (Akram Emmanuel), Sa'ad Qais, Laith Hussein, Ali Hussein (Naem Saddam), Ala' Kazem, Sa'ad Abdul Hamid, Mohammad Jassem, Jabbar Hashem.

Zafer Iqbal, Sher Mohammad, Amer Butt, Mohammad Tareq (Taher Pervaz), Imtiaz Butt, Farooq Aziz (Syed Nasir), Abdul Farooq, Qazi Ashfaq, Haroun Yousef, Ghulam Rashid.

(Referee: Abdul Aziz Mulla (United Arab Emirates))

Pakistan: Malek Mateen,

Graf, Sampras advance at French Open

PARIS (AP) — Iva Majoli, the 15-year-old Croatian playing in only her second Grand Slam, upset No. 15 seed Sabine Hack Friday to move into a fourth-round clash with top-seeded Steffi Graf.

Majoli, the youngest player in the tournament, breezed through the first set against Hack, then held off a comeback bid by the German to triumph 6-0, 7-6 (7-5). Graf, the favorite in the absence of defending champion Monica Seles, advanced to the last 16 with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Laura Gildemeister of Peru. She beat Majoli earlier this year in their only encounter.

Also winning third-round matches were fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain, 6-0, 7-5 over Italy's Natalia Bandone, and No. 8 seed Andre Agassi of Germany, a 6-1, 6-2 victor over Patricia Hy of Canada.

The men's No. 1 seed, Pete Sampras, followed Graf onto court one to complete his suspended second-round match with South African Marcos Ondruska. Sampras won the first set late Thursday, 7-5.

Five seeded players lost Thursday, including two highly ranked men upset by young Germans. Even though Germany's top player, Boris Becker, was ousted, five of his compatriots were safely into the men's third round, the second biggest national contingent after the United States.

Both delegations include some



Steffi Graf

relatively unsung players who are matching or surpassing their career-best Grand Slam performances.

Perhaps the most promising are Marc Goellner and Bernd Karbacher.

Goellner, 22, ousted No. 6 Petr Korda, last year's losing finalist, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (10-8). Karbacher, 25, calmly dispatched former champion and No. 8 seed Michael Chang 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in the completion of a suspended match.

Were they the crest of a new wave of German tennis, Goellner was asked.

"I don't really think about this," Goellner replied. "Tennis is a sport where one has to fight for himself. I'm very happy that there are others who are playing as well as I am."

The other Germans still in the field are ninth-seeded Michael Stich, Patrick Kuhnert and Carl-Uwe Steeb.

Goellner was ranked 107th at the end of last season, and has surged to 48th now, partly thanks to winning a clay court tournament in Nice, France, in April, where he beat Stefan Edberg and Ivan Lendl. This is his first French Open.

The Americans have clinched at least six berths in the 32-player third round. Seven if Sampras wins his suspended match.

In addition to powerhouses such as Sampras and two-time defending champion Jim Courier, the U.S. group includes 16th-seeded Malivai Washington; veterans Brad Gilbert and Derrick Rostagno; and outsiders Jeff Tarango and Jonathan Stark.

Stark, 22, and Tarango, 24, each have reached a Grand Slam third round once before. They may get no farther this time, either, since Stark's next opponent is third-seeded Edberg and Tarango was matched today against second-seeded Courier.

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Qatar's Sheikh Hamad wins Jordan Rally

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Qatar's Sheikh Hamad Al Thani Friday drove his Mitsubishi Gallant VR4 to victory in the Jordan International Rally organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Based on provisional results issued by the RACJ press office, Syria's Moudar Al Assad, in a Nissan Pulsar GT-R, came in second and Jordan's Amjad Farrah in a Toyota Corolla GT finished third.

Russia's Alexander Davidov finished fourth, followed by Jordan's Mahmoud Komok, Andreas Tsouloufous of Cyprus, Jordan's Tareq Taba'a, Ahmad Al Daoud, Mohammad Al Qirim, Press officer Hania Al Kabarti Friday told the Jordan Times that provisional results stood until final confirmation by rally stewards late Friday evening.

13 cars out of an original 36 starters finished the two-day 970 kilometres event.

Italy's Franco Corradin in a Lancia Delta Integrale had the lead from the outset of the rally. He maintained his lead until the Beidha 17th special stage followed by Al Thani, and Al Assad.

However, the rally's biggest surprise was Corradin's retirement due to engine failure in the 18th special stage at Fujei.

Al Thani took first place at special stage 18. He was followed by Al Assad in second place and Komok was third. Farrah was fifth and Tsouloufous jumped back to sixth position.

Tsouloufous took third place after Al Thani and Al Assad at special stage 19 at Hasa. Komok dropped down to fourth and Farrah was fifth.

With penalty calculations at the Hafira special stage 20, Al Assad took overall lead followed by Al Thani and Farrah. Komok was fifth and Jordan's Mohammad Al Daoud was sixth. Tsouloufous was ninth.

With one stage remaining, Al Thani regained the lead followed by Al Assad and Farrah at Swaqa special stage 21.

Russia's Davidov was fourth, Komok remained fifth followed by Tsouloufous.

The desert stages of the rally,

which was part of the 1995/96 World Championship provided a gruelling experience to even the most experienced drivers.

Competition seemed to be narrowing down to a limited number of drivers Friday as the second leg of the rally set-off from Amman heading southwards for the final 11 stages of the 22-stage event.

Provisional results of Thursday's first leg showed Corradin, in first place with a time of 1 hour 1.12 seconds, followed by Tsouloufous in another Lancia, in second place with a time of 1 hour 4.11 seconds. Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Bakhshab, in a Toyota Celica GT4, came in third with a time of 1 hour 7.3 seconds.

Twenty-seven starters challenged the desert stages of the second day, as drivers passed through Tunab, Swaqa, Hafira, Hasa and Fujei, before the service and regrouping halt at the Petra Forum Hotel. After the Petra restart, drivers passed through Beidha, and took the reverse direction through Fujei, Hasa, Swaqa and Tunab.

Corradin maintained his lead on the second day taking the best time at the 12th special stage with a time of 15 minutes 57 seconds. He was followed by Al Thani in second place, and Al Assad in third place.

The current leader of the Middle East Championship, Qatar's Naser Al Attiyah, who had finished 9th in Thursday's first leg, was fourth at Tunab followed by Jordan's rising star Mahmoud Komok in a Renault 5 GT Turbo in fifth place.

Bakhshab and Jordan's current Driver's Open leader Bashar Bustami were out at this stage after exceeding time limits. Tsouloufous finished 18th at this stage after his car went off the road and was stuck in a ditch. Al Attiyah reported mechanical problems, while Al Thani had brake problems.

In the 13th special stage at Swaqa, Al Attiyah took the best time at 22 minutes 43 seconds and was trailing Corradin in second place. Al Thani was third.

At the 14th special stage at Hafira — a hilly desert track and the longest special stage of the rally — Corradin was still in the lead followed by Al Thani and Tsouloufous. Al Attiyah dropped out after mechanical failure.



Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Bakhshab finished third after the first leg Thursday, but like many others dropped out at the start of the desert stage (photo)

In the 15th and 16th special stages at Hasa and Fujei, Corradin still had the lead, followed by Al Thani and Al Assad. Komok and Farrah were fourth and fifth. Pavel Hart of the Czech Republic and Russia's Alexander Potapov were out after an accident and mechanical problems at Hasa.

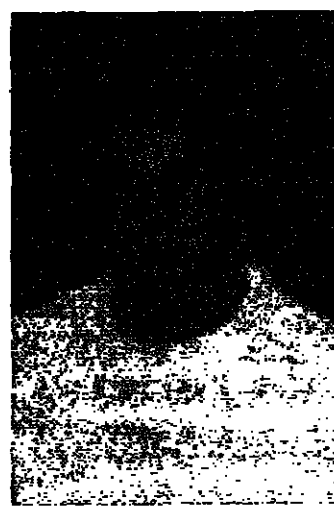
His Royal Highness Prince Faisal had given the start signal of the rally, sponsored by Gold Coast.

As competitors set out from the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman, there were 36 teams taking part after 10 out of the 46 who had originally registered for the rally pulled out at scrutineering Wednesday.

Thursday's first leg saw well-known drivers dropping out due to various reasons.

Jordan's Bishara Qaz'or was the first retirement of the rally when his Toyota broke an oil pipe and lost its oil prior to the start. He thus drove across the start-ramp and retired.

Corradin, Michel Saleh of Lebanon and Bakhshab took the lead in the first two special stages at Marsa and Masarra. However, Saleh's Toyota bonnet was blown open on a road section before stage 1 and then his clutch broke and had to drive without it. Jordan's Bustami had engine misfire, while Bakhshab had brake prob-



Amjad Farrah

lems.

The only Jordanian driver to enjoy full sponsorship for the whole season, 1992 champion Marwan Abu Hamad who had high expectations with his new Ford Sierra Cosworth, retired in the second special stage when his gearbox broke 500 metres into stage 1.

Tsouloufous, who was fourth at the beginning, followed by Corradin and Saleh in third place at special stage 3 at Ras Al Agra and special stage 4 at Soof.

Milan Mazanec of the Czech

Republic pulled out with a mechanical problem and Jeddah's Ibrahim Hammad exceeded the time limit.

Al Assad had overheating problems with his Nissan, while Saleh still had clutch problems.

At the Jerash regrouping, competitors complained of a host of problems. Ron Oakley of the United Arab Emirates reported that he lost the spot light and brakes in the first stage, while Komok said that he "had no reverse gear — but was otherwise okay".

After the restart from Jerash, Corradin, Saleh and Tsouloufous still led, while Bakhshab was fourth. Al Attiyah was fifth followed by Komok, Al Assad, Al Thani, Al Qirim and Farrah.

Jordan's Majdi Al Jallad in a Toyota Celica GT retired due to mechanical problems. Potapov complained of fuel problems caused by sand in the fuel tank after the cap dropped off.

The first car arrived at rally headquarters at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman at 1 a.m. Friday.

Meanwhile, the main press office at RACJ was in non-stop motion through the night as press officers calculated results, and tried to prepare up-to-date tables of leading drivers and results of the special stages.

Agassi apologises to Sampras

PARIS (AP) — Andre Agassi has apologised to Pete Sampras for a wisecrack comparing the world's top-ranked player to a monkey.

Agassi, who is skipping the French Open with a wrist injury, said at a promotional exhibition last weekend: "Nobody should be ranked No. 1 who looks like he just swung from a tree."

Sampras, who had expressed surprise at the remark early in the week, said Friday that Agassi had since sent him a fax of apology.

"He was basically having some fun, and it was a very nice fax," Sampras said. "(It) basically just put it behind us... we are good friends and it was one of the nicer faxes I have ever gotten."

Courier snubs champions dinner: There will be no champions dinner at this year's International Tennis Federation world championship dinner.

Monica Seles, the women's champion, is recovering in the United States from her stabbing April 30 and is not expected to fly in for next Tuesday's gala affair in Paris.

The men's champion, Jim Courier, has no similar excuse. He said Friday that he just doesn't feel like breaking from his routine to receive the trophy.

"I'm very honoured but I'm here to play," the two-time French open defending champion said. "I'm not here to socialise."



Andre Agassi

That's not part of my routine. I'm a very structured person. I'm not one to change my structure."

An ITF official expressed "disappointment" at Courier's decision.

Boris Becker drew criticism when he declined to attend the dinner in 1990. However, that was the year he lost in the first round of the French and was already in England preparing for Wimbledon.

In the past, Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe have flown in to accept the award.

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Mercedes-Benz to donate a car to each world champion

STUTTGART (AP) — Each gold medal winner at the Track And Field World Championships in August will receive a Mercedes car, but there will be no cash awards, according to IAAF president Primo Nebiolo.

The chief of the International Amateur Athletic Federation said the world governing body of the sport and the Stuttgart-based Mercedes-Benz car company signed a two-year deal this week that includes giving cars to world champions.

The World Championships are in Stuttgart Aug. 14-22. Nebiolo said Mercedes will also give cars to gold medal winners at the 1995 World Championships in Göteborg, Sweden.

Nebiolo, speaking at the end of a three-day meeting of the IAAF council, said the IAAF had been hoping for cash awards from Mercedes. But the German company said it could not afford cash bonuses at a time of recession.

The cars to be given out in Stuttgart with the new C class models that will come on the

market in June with a price tag of about 45,000 marks (\$28,000). All multiple gold medalists will be able to collect as many cars as the number of titles they win, Nebiolo said.

Under the deal, said to be worth between \$3 million-3.5 million, Mercedes will also provide cars and buses for transportation pools at all events organised by the IAAF until the end of 1995.

Top athletes and their agents had threatened to boycott the World Championships unless they were given prizes.

The dispute was settled, and Joe Douglas, manager of the Santa Monica Track Club and one of the most influential athlete representatives, said last week in New York that prize money and other awards would be given by the IAAF in Stuttgart.

Douglas said the prizes would not meet the demands of the athletes, who were asking as much as \$100,000 for each gold medalist, but that it was a step in the right direction.

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WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH

RUBBER BRIDGE OR DUPLICATE?

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 3
♥ K 2
♦ A K J 3
♣ J 10 2

WEST
♠ 8 4 2
♥ 10 8
♦ 9 4
♣ Q 9 7 6 5

EAST
♠ J 9 6
♥ 7 9 8 5 4 3
♦ Q 10 8 6
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ A 10 7
♥ A Q
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A K 8 4 3

The bidding: South West North East
1 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠
How do you play the club combination in the North-South hands?

That question is unanswerable unless you know how many tricks the game is rubber bridge or duplicate. You reach six no trump in quick time. North adds 17 points to your announced 16 and knows the combined holding is sufficient for a small slam, but lacking a few points for a grand, and makes the value bid without further ado.

Suppose you are playing rubber bridge, or in a major knockout team competition. You have eight tricks in the other three suits and need only four from clubs to land your slam. There isn't a problem if the clubs are no worse than 4-1. And you can protect against any 5-0 break.

With the opening spade lead in dummy, come to hand with a heart and lead a low club. If West shows out, insert the jack and you will later be able to finesse against East's nine to net four tricks. If West produces the queen, four tricks are there for the taking in top cards. If West follows low, play the ten, and your only problem occurs if East shows out. In that case return to club with a heart and lead another club toward the jack, and four tricks in the suit are again assured.

Does that mean that you should play the hand the same way at duplicate? Since you can safely assume that most pairs will be in the slam, you can't ignore the possibility of an overtrick should East have the queen. Since that's far more likely than the possibility of West holding all five clubs—the only distribution that threatens the game—at a pair competition you should take the club finesse.

TO DA Y	<p>Cinema Tel.: 671420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>POLICE STORY "3"</p> <p>"SUPERCOP"</p> <p>Shows: 12:30; 3:30; 6:15; 8:30; 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>SUMMER SCHOOL</p> <p>Shows: 12:30; 3:15; 4:45; 6:30; 8:30; 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>PRETTY WOMAN</p> <p>Shows: 12:30; 3:30; 6:15; 8:30; 10:30</p>	<p>Tel.: 675571</p> <p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</p> <p>The Friends of the Book Society will organise a concert by</p> <p>Jafra Troupe for Folk Arts</p> <p>on Wednesday, June 2, at 5 p.m., and on Thursday, June 3, at 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155</p> <p>AHLAN THEATRE</p> <p>On Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays AT 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>Welcome New World Order</p> <p>On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>Please make advance reservation</p>
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Clinton attaches strings to China's MFN status

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton Friday extended for another year China's trade privileges with the United States, but attached provisions requiring China to meet new terms, including improvement of human rights standards, for further extensions.

Mr. Clinton called the new terms "a new chapter in United States policy to China."

Mr. Clinton announced a one-year extension of China's most favored nation (MFN) trade status. The treatment allows countries to sell to the United States at reduced tariffs.

"If the Chinese don't make a serious effort and meet these conditions, the president will certainly ... be prepared to revoke MFN. That's very clear," said Winston Lord, one-time ambassador to Beijing and now assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Although there are no strings attached to the current extension, in order to continue its MFN status next year, China would have to make progress on human rights, fair trade and nuclear non-proliferation issues.

"In the trade and non-proliferation areas," Mr. Lord said, "we're not raising new demands with the Chinese. We're basically asking them to live up to agreements they've already signed or adhered to."

"This is an attempt to begin to move the most-favored debate from the center of our policy and construct a broader China policy," Mr. Lord said. "This will require substantial movement by the Chinese on our areas of concern."

Mr. Clinton signed the executive order after meeting with congressional leaders.

Majority leader George Mitchell asserted that it was the first time a president had sought to put human rights conditions on a MFN renewal.

"I commend President Clinton for his leadership on this issue. For the first time since the events of Tiananmen Square, nearly four years ago, we have a president who is willing to act in order to bring positive change."

However, the language containing the conditions is not binding on either the president or congress, only asserting that the secretary of state not recommend another MFN extension unless progress has been demonstrated by China on the human rights and other fronts.

During last year's campaign, Mr. Clinton vowed to reverse the previous policy followed by President George Bush of granting annual extensions of MFN to Beijing.

However, Friday's order was a middle ground.



"SCREAMING HEAD": A driver eyes a head in the motor, "to promote a theatre festival in the traffic in downtown Dijon, France. A local theatre group, Royal de Luxe, Friday launched "traffic jams," including the image of the "screaming head" emerging from the hood of the car next to him in the motor, "to promote a theatre festival in the traffic in downtown Dijon, France. A local theatre group, Royal de Luxe, Friday launched "traffic

Jordan, Iraq in contact over compensation for traders

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior official from the Central Bank of Iraq recently visited Jordan to discuss Jordanian efforts to secure compensation for traders' losses in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

According to the sources, the official, who was not immediately identified, held talks with senior Jordanian officials but did not make any definite promises.

The official "pledged to study the affair and make the necessary recommendation to the Iraqi government," said one source.

"We do not expect any immediate move from Iraq to offer compensation, in view of the financial crisis in Iraq," said the source. "But the fact that we are holding discussions on the issue of compensation is encouraging since we now understand each other's position."

In the week immediately after the May 5 invalidation of the so-called Swiss notes of 25-dinar denomination and a six-day border closure to prevent currency smuggling into the country, Iraq was reported to have informed Jordanian authorities that it would not entertain any request for compensation regardless of the na-

ture of the possession of the currency.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said then that the results of contacts with the Iraqi government were not encouraging, but that the efforts were continuing.

The focus of the Jordanian efforts now is to secure compensation for those who had accepted Iraqi currency from the Iraqi government as payment for goods and services prior to the invalidation of 25-dinar banknotes printed before the Gulf crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Traders and officials said the Iraqi government had in fact encouraged Jordanian exporters to accept cash in the Iraqi currency, which could be changed in Jordan's money market. The cash was taken out of Iraq with special permission issued by the Central Bank of Iraq.

"Many traders still possess the permission document to prove that the Iraqi dinars they held were brought out of Iraq through legal means and with the consent of the Baghdad government," said a businessman who used to send food-stuff to Iraq.

Estimates of total Jordanian losses, including the holdings of small-time investors and speculators, from the invalidation of the "Swiss" notes range from JD 15 million to JD 70 million.

It is not known what percentage of the amount could be covered under the special permission category. But dozens of businessmen have said they used to take goods into Iraq and accept millions of Iraqi dinars as payment.

Some of the traders who accepted Iraqi currency as payment for goods and services did not immediately change the money in the Jordanian market, apparently with hopes that the dinars could be worth much more and when the sanctions against Iraq would be lifted or relaxed.

Businessmen expect the dates of the related permissions to be a key factor in any possible arrangement if and when Baghdad agrees to compensate traders who possess legally-transferred Iraqi dinars.

Meanwhile the invalidated notes continue to be traded in Amman market, the legally worthless currency fetched around five fils to each dinar on Thursday, while the so-called "military" notes, printed by the Iraqi armed forces during and after the Gulf crisis, was traded at around 13 fils to the dinar.

A total ban on the entry of Iraqi currency into Jordan imposed by the Central Bank of Jordan on the same day as the invalidation of the Swiss notes remains in force.

Kuwait court seeks lawyers to defend alleged Bush plotters

KUWAIT (AP) — One week before the trial of 14 Iraqis and Kuwaitis accused of plotting to murder former U.S. President George Bush, the state security court is still trying to find lawyers to defend them.

Four of the seven court-appointed defenders have refused to take the job, saying they have travel plans or other engagements, court officials reported Friday.

One, Ibrahim Al Athari, admitted that he had moral qualms about defending men accused of plotting to assassinate Mr. Bush during his visit to the emirate in April.

Mr. Bush, as the leader of the 33-nation coalition which liberated Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February 1991, is widely revered in the emirate.

"How can I defend enemies of my motherland," Mr. Athari told the Associated Press. "These are people who came to destroy and kill."

Mr. Athari was approached by the court to defend two Iraqis whose cases had been turned down by another Kuwaiti lawyer.

Another attorney appointed by the court, who did not want his name used, said he could not "put my personal feelings aside and be objective enough to do the job properly."

Kuwaiti security authorities arrested the defendants April 13, one day before Mr. Bush and his entourage arrived for the three-day visit.

"Kuwaitis have unfortunately prejudged these people because of the media," said lawyer Ibrahim Al Kandari, who is defending two of the Iraqis.

"The newspapers have branded all of them as terrorists even before the trial," he said.

Prosecutor-General Mohammad Al Banai says all the suspects have confessed to the plot, which authorities say was masterminded by Iraq's intelligence service.

According to security authorities, 10 of the men crossed the border from Iraq with an

'Rutskoi gagged'

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin guards under orders from President Boris Yeltsin stopped the rebel Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi from meeting journalists in the Kremlin on Friday, the latest twist in a cold war between the two men.

Andrei Fyodorov, an aide to Mr. Rutskoi, told journalists around 15 other visitors to the vice-president had been barred from entering the Kremlin gates to meet him this week.

Reporters and camera teams invited to an unprecedented briefing with Mr. Rutskoi gathered at the appointed hour at the Kremlin's Spassky Gate. But a lone guard, clearly flustered by the commotion, said he had no clearance and could admit no one.

"The vice-president is sitting in his office and awaiting you," Mr. Fyodorov said in an impromptu news conference under the Spassky clock tower, at the edge of Red Square.

"Unfortunately we are obliged to state that the head of the president's administration and the commandant of the Moscow Kremlin have forbidden the press access to the Kremlin for a meeting with the vice-president," he added.

An aide to Yeltsin's administration chief, Sergei Filatov, said Rutskoi's office had probably submitted its request too late. "I expect they put it in the internal post and it took a time. They came to us an hour before it was due to take place."

The Kremlin guard is ultimately controlled by Mr. Yeltsin. The scene highlighted an increasingly bitter squabble between Mr. Yeltsin and the former air force officer and Afghan war hero who was his running mate in Russia's first-ever democratic elections in June 1991.

Mr. Rutskoi, a conservative Russian nationalist picked by Mr. Yeltsin to balance the ticket, moved from attacking Mr. Yeltsin's economic reforms into open rebellion against the president earlier this year and threw in his lot with the opposition.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beirut paper ordered closed

BEIRUT (R) — A pro-Syrian Beirut newspaper drew a week-long closure order from the government Friday for publishing a cartoon alleged to be insulting to Lebanon's president. Al Sharq was the third Lebanese daily ordered to shut down in the last four weeks. A government prosecutor said its editor and owner Awmi Elias Al Hrawi, his wife and son in a manner which the prosecutor said was a "direct insult" to the president. The opposition left-wing Al Safir newspaper is due to face the print court on July 1 for printing what it said was the text of an Israeli proposal to Beirut on ending the Jewish state's occupation of a "security zone" in South Lebanon. The government said Al Safir, which was banned from publishing for a week, broke the print law by revealing a secret document. The proposal was made to Lebanese negotiators at Middle East peace talks in Washington earlier this month. A four-week closure order against the Christian newspaper Nida'a Al Watan for printing a report deemed damaging to reconciliation in Lebanon was extended on Thursday until June 3. Nida'a Al Watan accused Mr. Hariri, a billionaire with Saudi royal links, of Islamising Lebanon by buying Christian property. The television station Independent Communications Network, which belongs to Nida'a Al Watan's owner Henri Safir, was ordered closed indefinitely for broadcasting similar material.

Moroccan policeman arrested in attempted holdup

RABAT (AP) — A plainclothes policeman has been arrested in the violent holdup of a bank customer, the latest in a series of scandals involving Morocco's police. Mohammad Tourabi, 30, has been charged with sticking up a businessman who was driving away from a Casablanca bank with a sack containing 44,000 dirhams (about \$5,000). When Mohammad Al Aknaoui, 33, refused to give up his money, Mr. Tourabi shot twice. One bullet struck Mr. Aknaoui in the throat, badly wounding him. The other lodged in the car door. Mr. Tourabi and an alleged accomplice, a school teacher, were arrested shortly after Wednesday's attempted robbery, authorities said. Mr. Aknaoui was reported in satisfactory condition. The incident is the latest in a series of police scandals that began in March with the multiple rape trial of Mohammad Tabet, a police commissioner in Casablanca. Mr. Tabet is appealing a death sentence for forcing as many as 500 women and girls to have sex with him at an apartment. Mr. Tabet secretly videotaped some of the encounters. Some of the tapes reached an underground black market. The Tabet scandal, and a subsequent homosexual multiple-rape case involving police officer, prompted King Hassan II to replace the chief of the national police. The case aroused public outcry against the police, who operate with virtual impunity in this country and are often accused of arbitrary arrest, corruption and brutality.

4 beheaded in S. Arabia for drug smuggling

RIYADH (AP) — Four drug smugglers were publicly beheaded Friday, including an Iraqi, the Interior Ministry announced. At least since the Gulf war, it was the first apparent case of an Iraqi caught in the Saudi Arabian dragnet for drug smugglers and peddlers. The ministry identified the beheaded Iraqi as Abar Ben Salman Mohammad Al Ziyadi and said he was convicted of both drug smuggling and dealing. He was executed in the northern city of Haifa Al Batn. It gave no details and did not say whether the Iraqi was among the small number of Iraqi expatriates in the kingdom despite the rupture of ties with Baghdad, or whether he was an infiltrator across the border. Haifa Al Batn is not far from the border region and the Rafia camp housing thousands of Iraqi refugees from the Gulf war. Last week, the kingdom announced that the refugees and their Saudi guards clashed in March after the Saudis refused to allow fresh Iraqi infiltrators into the camp. Four Saudis and nine Iraqis were killed in that clash. Drug traffickers have faced the death penalty since the mid-1980s when the oil-enriched region became a target for dealers.

Tower of Pisa off limits after Florence blast

PISA, Italy (R) — Closed circuit television is being installed to guard the Leaning Tower of Pisa after a bomb blast damaged Florence's Uffizi gallery, city authorities said Friday. The tower is the first of Italy's great monuments to receive extra protection after what Senate leader Giovanni Spadolini said Thursday could be the start of a new "cultural terrorism." The Florence bomb, packed in a van, killed five people and badly damaged the 400-year-old gallery and part of its priceless art collection. The mafia was thought to be responsible, displaying a show of strength after police successes against organized crime. The area surrounding Pisa's 800-year-old tower and the adjoining cathedral will also be closed to the public between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

European rocket to send up Israel satellite

PARIS (R) — ArianeSpace has signed a contract for the launching of an Israeli Amos-1 telecommunications satellite by an Ariane rocket in 1995, a spokesman for the Paris-based European consortium said Friday. "The contract was signed a week ago with Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), the satellite's makers," said Claude Sanchez, spokesman for ArianeSpace. "Amos-1 is definitely a civilian project. It weighs 1,050 kilos and we will put it into geo-stationary orbit along with another satellite from the European Space Agency's launching pad in French Guiana (on the northeast coast of South America)," he said.

Morocco says Polisario selling its weapons

RABAT (R) — Polisario guerrillas fighting for the independence of Western Sahara are selling their weapons in northern Mauritania, the official Moroccan news agency MAP said Thursday. It said "an important arms sales operation is reported under way at Lemrayat near Ouled Lemzabet in Northern Mauritania" near the Mali border, on orders from Mohammed Lamine Al Bouhali, defence minister of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by the Polisario. The arms included 300 AK-47 assault rifles, six 100-millimetre field guns and 23-millimetre anti-aircraft guns. MAP did not say to whom the weapons were being sold. The agency gave no source for its report. But one official told Reuters the information came from Polisario defectors who arrived recently in Morocco. The government has said more than 1,000 Polisario defectors have returned to Morocco.

Corpses held by Amal not Israeli troops

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said Thursday an International Red Cross examination of two corpses held by Lebanon's Amal movement disproved claims the remains were those of missing Israeli soldiers. "From the examination it was determined with certainty that these are not the bodies of Israeli soldiers," the army said in a statement. Hoping to swap the remains for hundreds of Amal allowed two pathologists from the International Committee after the SLA freed five women prisoners. Israel and the SLA have offered to free all Lebanese prisoners they hold in return for six missing servicemen or their remains and more than 10 captured militiamen. The SLA holds about 200 Lebanese prisoners at Khiam Jail inside Israel's self-declared South Lebanon "security zone."

Juan Carlos meets Turkey's Sephardic Jews

ISTANBUL (R) — Spanish King Juan Carlos held an historic meeting Friday with leaders of Turkey's Jewish community whose forebears were expelled from Spain 500 years ago. The meeting was the first between a Spanish monarch and Turkey's Sephardic Jews since Fernando and Isabel. The Catholic king and queen of state visit to Turkey, received Jewish leaders and directors of a quinquennial foundation formed to commemorate the arrival of the Jews. Most of Turkey's 25,000 Jews are Sephardim, many of whom still speak Ladino, a Judeo-spanish tongue. "This was a cordial visit," Haim Kohen, protocol chief of the Turkey's chief rabbin, told reporters.

COLUMN

Japan's court protests at royal telephone card

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Imperial Household Agency said Friday it would complain to a Japanese firm that has made a telephone card with a picture of the crown prince and his bride-to-be in formal dress. The card was made by a company in Utsunomiya, central Japan, to mark the wedding of Prince Naruhito who plans to marry former career diplomat Masako Owada next month. The glossy cards — used to make telephone calls — are about the size of a business card and are commonly used as commemorative items. An agency spokesman said they were shocked that a picture of a member of the royal family had been used for commercial purposes. He said the concept of an authorised commercial gift item of the royal family did not exist. "There would be the danger that the royal family might be exploited by some business," he said.

New Yorker libel case goes to jury

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A libel lawsuit brought by a psychoanalyst whose fall from power in his profession was described caustically in a New Yorker magazine article is in the hands of a federal court jury. Jeffrey Masson's lawyer asked the jury for \$7.5 million in damages in closing arguments, saying Mr. Masson's quotes were fabricated and his reputation destroyed by writer Janet Malcolm. Mr. Masson, who had hoped to change public awareness of sexual abuse through research on Sigmund Freud, has been labeled a "buffoon" by academics and the public since the article was published, said attorney Charles Morgan. Ms. Malcolm's lawyer, Gary Bostwick, replied that any harm Mr. Masson suffered was his own fault. "It was damage that he himself caused, because he said all of those things and much, much more," Mr. Bostwick said. "He was ashamed (afterward) of the fact that he had spoken so openly. 'If you award him one red cent... her career is ruined.'" Mr. Bostwick concluded in a courtroom jammed with spectators. Ms. Malcolm, who has written for the New Yorker since the 1960s, wrote a two-part article in December 1983 on issues raised by Mr. Masson's firing as projects director of the Sigmund Freud Archives. He was fired after denouncing Freud's theory that women usually fantasize accounts of childhood sexual abuse. After 11 days of testimony and arguments, the seven-woman, one-man jury got final instructions late Thursday from U.S. District Judge Eugene Lynch.

Potent Asian heroin killing addicts Canadian addicts

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — An unusually potent form of heroin peddled by Asian gangsters is killing addicts in this west coast port city at an unprecedented rate. Canadian police said. They said five drug addicts died overnight as more than 30 people suffered overdoses from the cheap heroin now flooding into this major North American drug importation centre. "There's a glut... people don't know how pure it is and they die," explained Sergeant Gary Dalton of the Vancouver City Police Drug Squad. The overdoses took place after what is locally known as Welfare Wednesday when drug addicts and others receive their monthly government subsidy cheques. "The volume of deaths we've experienced in the last 12 hours is really extraordinary," noted ambulance dispatcher Carl Bailey. The North American heroin glut follows three years of bumper opium crops in Asia's Golden Triangle where most of the world's supply is grown. "People that were getting 12 to 18 per cent heroin in caps are now going for purer heroin at a cheaper price and getting 91 to 96 per cent (purity)," Sgt. Dalton told Reuters. Police blame the increase in drug deaths on increased heroin dealing by Asian gangsters. "Over 80 per cent of the heroin trade is controlled by oriental organised crime," Sgt. Dalton said. Sgt. Dalton said the biggest gang is the big circle boys from mainland China, but some Vietnamese groups are also involved. The problem of cheap, potent heroin isn't restricted to Vancouver. A string of heroin-related deaths in the fishing community of Campbell River has sparked an investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The British Columbia Coroner's Office said recently that overdose deaths in the province had risen from 67 in 1989 to around 200 last year.

Mubarak says radical cleric a CIA agent

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak says a radical Egyptian cleric whose followers are charged in the World Trade Centre bombing was allowed in the United States as payment for services to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The statement challenges the U.S. government's version of how Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman's multiple-entry visa was issued in 1990 despite his presence on a State Department list of suspicious characters.

That version is that the embassy in Sudan did not notice the blind cleric's name despite notification eight days earlier that Sheikh Omar was visiting Khartoum, the Sudanese capital. State Department documents say the embassy in Cairo asked that he be watched.

"The Sheikh has been a CIA agent since his days in Afghanistan. ... He still earns a salary," Mr. Mubarak told a select audience that included leading editors. "The visa he got was not issued by mistake. It is because of the services he did."

Mr. Mubarak, one of Washington's firmest Middle Eastern friends, spoke of Sheikh Abdul Rahman Wednesday. Only the government newspaper Al Gomhuria reported his remarks Thursday.

The Sheikh's presence in the United States has strained relations between Washington and Cairo. But there was no indication why Mr. Mubarak chose to go public with a version of events directly contradicting Washington's.

The blind cleric, charged and acquitted of sanctioning the 1981 assassination of President Anwar

Sadat, is spiritual leader of Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, the Islamic Group. It wants to replace Mr. Mubarak's secular government with an Iran-like theocracy. Sheikh Abdul Rahman uses his New York-area base as a platform for disseminating his message.

Several suspects in the Feb. 26 bombing at New York's World Trade Centre, which killed six people and wounded more than 1,000, prayed at a storefront New Jersey mosque where Sheikh Abdul Rahman preaches.

His journey from Egypt followed a circuitous route through Sudan, Afghanistan and other countries. The State Department says its Khartoum embassy, "recognising its error," tried to cancel his visa two weeks after it was issued. The preacher had left 11 days earlier for Afghanistan.

A State Department chronology on the Sheikh's comings and goings also recounts a purported series of bureaucratic errors that allowed him to leave and reenter the United States without interception. But the immigration and Naturalisation Service revoked his permanent residence in March 1992 just over a year after he got it.

Its reasons were that he lied on his application by hiding that he was polygamous and that he has been convicted in Egypt of writing a bad cheque. Sheikh Abdul Rahman has two Egyptian wives, Aisha and Fatem.

In his remarks, Mr. Mubarak said the case has led to a dispute in the United States between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the CIA. The FBI, responsible for domestic security, wants Sheikh Abdul Rahman out of the country. The CIA wants him to stay.